

Wednesday July 3 1996

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Garuda GA 100	Malaysia M.300	Switzerland SF 3
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Japan J.300	Qatar Q.100	Turkey TL 100.000
Kenya K.100	Russia RU 2.00	USA UA 2.75
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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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Joe Queenan's hilarious journey into movieland

The \$6,998 blockbuster

Style G2 pages 8/9

What the lads are wearing in Milan

Big bucks big trousers

Style G2 pages 8/9

Society

Counting the cost of stormy weather

Style G2 pages 10/11

Homes risk in legal aid bill

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

PEOPLE who lose cases on civil legal aid could have a charge taken out on their homes to meet costs, under plans unveiled by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday.

The unprecedented proposals, contained in a white paper, form part of the most radical shake-up of the legal aid scheme since it was set up in 1989.

Under the plan one option for collecting outstanding costs would be for the Legal Aid Board to take a second mortgage over the litigant's home, charging interest to be paid when the home is sold.

Legal aid will no longer be free for anyone. Even those on income support will have to pay a small fee, possibly £10 or £20, and perhaps further sums at key stages of the case.

Lord Mackay hopes to win a slot for a bill in the autumn to bring in the main elements of the package. He said he wanted a scheme that "pound for pound buys more and better services, targets those services only on cases that deserve support by the taxpayer, and is fairer to the opponents of legally aided people".

Labour condemned the proposals as "an NHS-style reform of the legal aid system". Paul Boateng, legal affairs spokesman, said: "These Treasury-driven proposals cut back on justice for those currently in receipt of legal aid, whilst doing nothing for the many millions who aren't."

In a move to curb unworthy and trivial cases, those who get state funding for civil

court cases will have to contribute more to the cost. Losing litigants on legal aid could end up paying some or all of the legal costs of privately paying opponents who would otherwise suffer hardship, possibly through the charge on their mortgage.

When the plans are fully implemented, the solicitors providing the service will decide whether the applicant should get legal aid.

Isobel Manley, vice-chairwoman of the Law Centres Federation, said: "It is the poorer and the vulnerable who will suffer if these proposals are implemented."

Ann Abraham, chief executive of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, said: "The price of controlling legal aid will be paid by the many thousands of people of modest means who find that justice is a luxury they cannot afford."

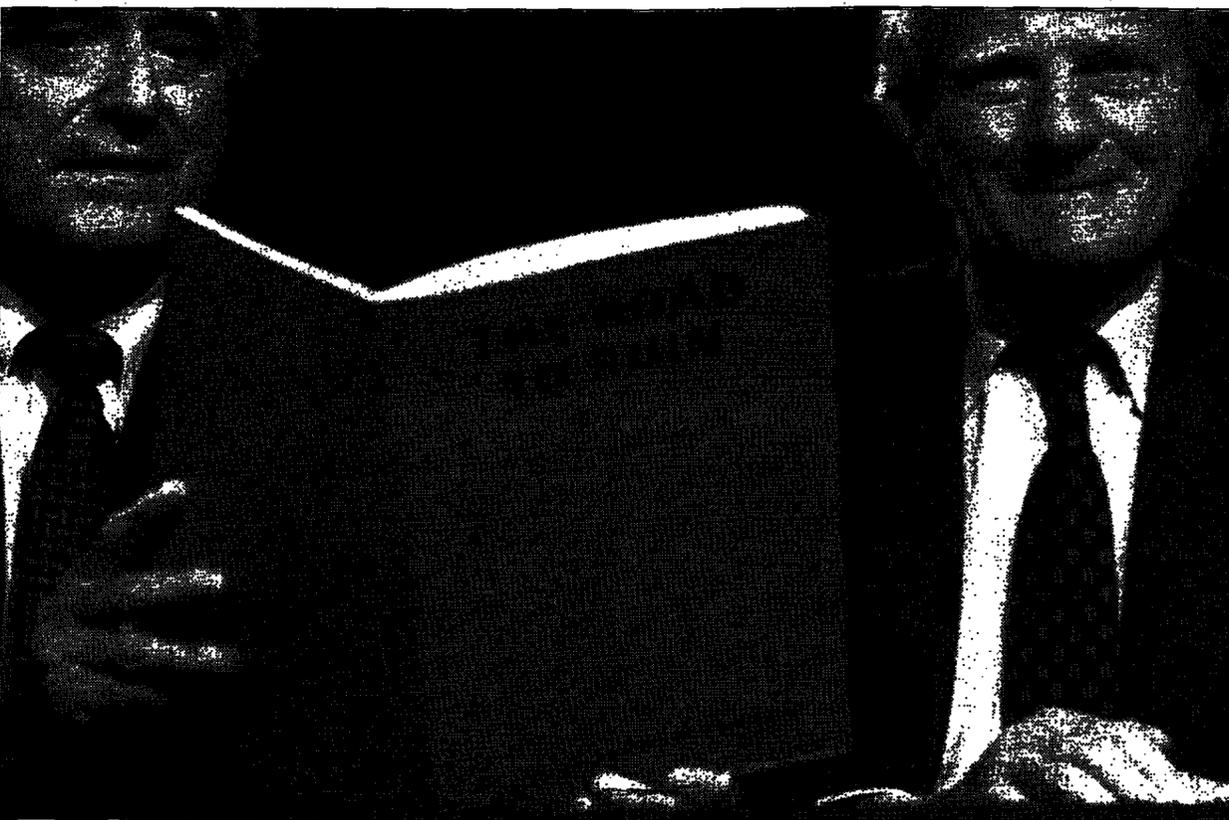
The human rights group Liberty questioned whether the Government would consider cases against the police a priority under the merits test. "Even if legal aid is granted, will the person feel able to use it if the risk of losing is they will have to pay thousands of pounds in costs?" asked John Wadham, Liberty's director.

The Government's plans are for implementation over at least five years, with extensive pilot schemes. Labour opposes cash limits on legal aid, but has said it would not provide more money for legal aid when in power.

Mr Boateng said: "We want a new emphasis on a salaried legal profession working in Citizens Advice Bureaux and law centres alongside High Street solicitors working within the context of a community legal service."

Leader comment, page 8

Blair condemns Road to Ruin campaign as 'greatest political retreat of modern times'



Spoof manifesto backfires on Tories

Mawhinney says changed Labour a PR creation still 'unfit to govern'

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Conservative high command was battling last night to get the latest anti-Labour spoof version of New Labour's manifesto, more than twice as long as the 10,000-word genuine article to be published tomorrow.

The thrust of the new offensive was to paint Tony Blair's revamped party as still "unfit to govern" because its newly adopted policies — though less extreme than Old Labour's — would still inflict higher taxes and unemployment on Britain, along with

trade union power and the social chapter.

Opposition politicians were outraged by what they deemed the "wholly negative and puerile tone" of the Tory campaign, which was dominated by an over-satirical spoof version of New Labour's manifesto, more than twice as long as the 10,000-word genuine article to be published tomorrow.

"The Road to Ruin, the party of Blairite 'warm words', was widely judged to have missed its mark. It begins: 'This is a manifesto for a New Britain. A One-Nation Britain. A Social-ist Britain. A Young Country. A Stakeholder Britain. A Britain with

a Stakeholder economy practising Stakeholder politics in a Stakeholder environment." It continues in similar vein over 30 pages with alternate pages purporting to justify the parody with selective quotations from shadow ministerial statements and a helpful interpretation of them by officials from the Conservative research department.

Backed by an M&C Saatchi poster campaign, the latest Tory onslaught may cost as much as £2 million, twice Labour's £1 million Road to the Manifesto programme.

Labour's version signals the final run-in to the election, probably next April or May, and is accompanied by an electronic billboard flashing out the party's message above London's Piccadilly Circus.

Yesterday's launch by the

Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister — who managed a self-conscious double act with the spoof text in a revamped Tory media centre — was undermined before a word had been uttered by confusion over earlier briefings.

Dr Mawhinney had to explain away remarks by party officials after Monday's political cabinet meeting in which they had suggested a complete propaganda rethink because recent attacks on Mr Blair had missed their target.

Yesterday's line, almost certainly the correct one, was that the positive Tory campaign of recent months, admitting "Yes, It Hurt" but stressing the returning feel-good factor, had gone moderately well.

The rethink focuses on the

negative campaign which has variously accused Mr Blair of being a closet-Tory and a closet-leftie.

"The issue is not whether Labour has changed. It is now clear that it has," the Tory chairman conceded. "The issue is whether new Labour is fit to govern. It is not. Labour is not sanitised. It is dangerous. New Labour is a careful public relations cre-

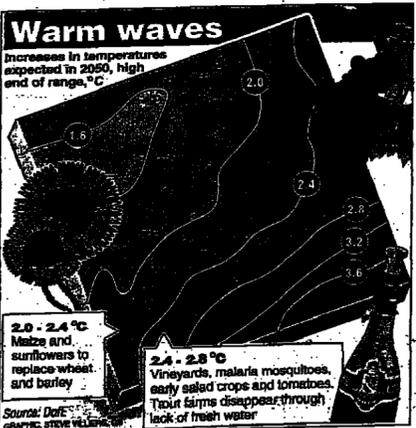
ation. It is designed to convince people that Labour's new policies are safer than their old ones.

At his side, Mr Heseltine stressed the "determined strides" Britain had made to become internationally competitive again since 1979.

turn to page 2, column 1

Letters, page 8; Francis Wheen, G2, page 5

Long range weather forecast: hot, dry and French



In 30 years the climate of Europe will have moved 150 miles north

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

SOUTHERN England will have the climate of the Champagne region of France in 25 years time and Yorkshire will replace Kent as the Garden of England, the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, said yesterday.

Launching his department's review of the effects of climate change on the UK, he said the climate was already noticeably changing and would continue to do so until the "familiar landscape of the Cotswolds and Suffolk will be growing sunflowers and maize" by 2025.

After another 25 years, the climate will have shifted again, with southern England resembling the Bor-

deaux region and the Champagne climate moving to Yorkshire.

The report predicts that the south and east of England will become much drier as well as warmer, with summer water shortages becoming normal, while the north-west will become far wetter. Trees would suffer in the south but forests would grow 25 per cent faster in the north and in Scotland.

Mr Gummer said that while the predictions brought some good news — for example a boost to tourism — on balance it was bad, particularly for counties in southern England.

In 30 years, the climate of Europe will have moved 150 miles north. For example, the hot dry conditions in Spain will move to France. Paris will have the climate of the

south of France and Spain will be mostly desert.

It means southern England will enjoy the same climate as the Loire valley and therefore the whole pattern of agriculture in Europe would have to change. There would be enormous need to adapt quickly and it remained to be seen whether Europe would still be able to feed itself.

Rain and windstorms will become more frequent in Britain and do more damage than at present. A rise in the sea level of up to one foot (30cm) on the east coast will threaten to low-lying areas.

The UK has already authorised an increase in the height of sea walls but storm surges caused by the combination of high tide and wind will threaten East Anglia, the Humber region, Teesside and the Firth of Forth. On the west coast, Avonmouth, Morecambe Bay and northern Cumbria have coastal lowlands which could be affected.

Some plant and animal species will die out others will have to migrate northwards. Insects like the malaria-carrying mosquito will be able to thrive in southern Britain.

The report was launched two weeks before Mr Gummer goes to Geneva for talks on the UN Convention on Climate Change. The UK and Europe are expected to spearhead moves to cut carbon dioxide emissions to try to slow down the process of global warming, so that the world has a chance to adapt to the changes.

As a first step, the UK is proposing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 5 to 10 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010.

Mr Gummer emphasised that it was too late to stop the climate changing because of the pollution already in the atmosphere.

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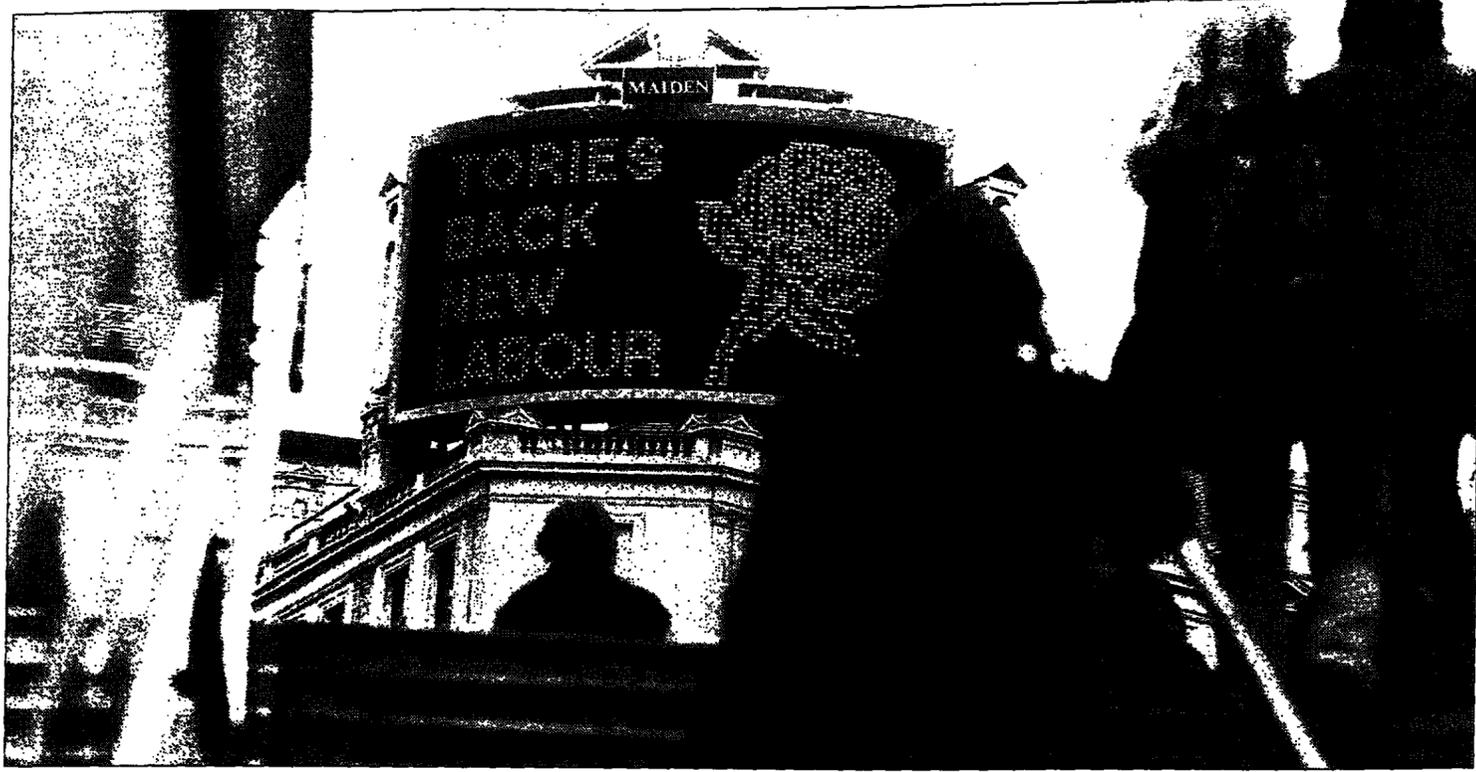
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The Tories have sought to satirise New Labour but in doing so they may have set themselves a trap



Labour's spoof advertisement on a hoarding in Piccadilly Circus, London, yesterday represented part of its counter-offensive in the propaganda battle

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

Whitehall farce that's limp at the wrist



Simon Hoggart

THE Conservative booklet The Road to Ruin, subtitled New Labour's Real Manifesto, has been described by my colleague Michael White, at the press conference for its launch as the worst political document since the 1983 Labour manifesto. Quite so. It is meant to be a spoof manifesto, packed with deft satire, inserting the siletto of humour into the rib cage of New Labour. But watching politicians try to be funny is usually like seeing a carhorse do dressage. It's embarrassing; you want to look away, you wish you were somewhere else. And yet, the document is funny. It is tremendously, humorously camp. It brings to mind the backstage bitching of It Ain't Half Hot, Mum. They ought to read it out loud at Labour meetings, in appropriately fey, "Hello, I'm Julian and this is my friend Sandy" voices. For instance, on page 25, "One of the first acts of Labour Government will be to end Britain's shameful opt-out from the social

chapter. We believe that for Britain to enjoy falling unemployment while unemployment rises across Europe could lead to unacceptable tensions, and we know what they lead to, don't we missus? Ooh, I can see you do! And what have you been putting in the old man's tea?" I have added to the original text there, but I feel I have been true to its spirit. Or take their brief summary of Labour policies on page 3. You have to remember that this is meant to be a biting lampoon: "A new stakeholder economy in which everyone (trade unions, pressure groups and so on) is included and no-one is excluded. "New communities so that everyone is in bed by 10pm and not out shopping, as they are under the Tories. "A New Europe in which Britain is really nice and gets its way by agreeing to everyone else's suggestions." Later, on page 21, "Labour policies will ensure that despite devolution, England and Wales continue to benefit from the experience of people like Gordon Brown, Gavin Strang and Donald Dewar. To make quite sure that these Scottish MPs don't lose touch with the rest of the UK, they will pay the lower English rate of tax..." Ooh, get her! Put our knickers on the wrong way round this morning, did we? Or the mincing line which has whipped up the Labour Party into a cappuccino of fake anger, the one alleged to

be a tasteless attack on David Blunkett: "We think the provision of free eye tests to millionaires is a health priority." Whoops! Sometimes we leave the backstage sniping at an all-male revue, and find ourselves in the playground of a girls' school, that theatre of vicious social combat. "New Labour also believes that a new vibrant Britain must give the people of the East Midlands a chance to realise their burning desire for a regional Parliament, which is exactly the kind of dorky thing you'd expect someone who wears a stupid brace on her teeth like Sophie Pettigrew would say!" Appropriately, I have just received a letter from Michael Fabricant MP, taking issue with yesterday's sketch. "It was not some 'old Labourite' who shouted out 'Boogie on, Ginn!' It was me. Besides, the exact words were 'Boogie on Reggae Woman'. (You're too young to remember the words.)" Au contraire, Michael old horse. Who could forget Steve Wonder's great 1975 hit, which peaked at number 12 in the UK charts? He finishes with a complaint about my last lines, in which I suggested that — of hanging, flogging and disembowelling — he would regard only the first as a punishment, the other two as rewards. "And as for the final para, Well!" I felt the tone of that sentence would fit perfectly into The Road To Ruin.

Bumpy ride

Extracts from the Conservative document The Road to Ruin: New Labour's Real Manifesto

- Gordon Brown puts it best when he says that New Labour accepts the growth of post-neo-classical endogenous growth theory and the symbiotic relationship between growth and investment in people and infrastructure. Last year Labour came to an agreement with the trade unions in which we agreed an even better deal than we had with them in the 1960s and 1970s — they voted for the new Clause 4 and we agreed to meet their vital employment rights demands. New Labour, New Social Contract. Even though Tony Blair believes that proportional representation gives small parties disproportionate power, we will hold a referendum on electoral reform. This will preserve a unified government by allowing Jack Cunningham and Robin Cook to vote one way, while Margaret Beckett and Jack Straw vote the other. Taking low income children from Winchester and returning them to Hackney Downs where they belong would have turned around Hackney Downs. Abolishing the assisted places scheme would also ensure that children are not forced to become public school cronyists by their parents' misjudgments. We want to be sure councils help the community take a view on issues like social class barriers, the future of the information superhighway and preserving the integrity of nuclear free zones, although we would probably draw the line at allowing authorities to pursue independent foreign policies. We are equally incensed about the Tory attack on benefit for asylum seekers. It is a measure of our civilisation that people from all around the world should be allowed to stay as long as they want in Britain at the taxpayers' expense.

Winston Fletcher finds the new Conservative campaign harks back to tried and trusted formula that depends on feel-good factor

THE Tories are returning to the tried and trusted theme of saying 'Don't take a risk — stick with what you know.' It is a different version of the classic Harold Macmillan slogan of 1958: 'Life's better with the Conservatives — don't let Labour ruin it.' It is the theme with which Margaret Thatcher went back to basics in the 1987 campaign, with a slogan created by Tim Bell: 'Britain is great again — don't let Labour wreck it.' Fundamentally, any political party that's been out of power for a long time always ends up saying it's time for a change and any political party that's been in power for a long time says don't risk a change, especially if they believe that they can convince the electorate that things are pretty good as they are. The underlying presumption of New Labour, New Danger must be that the Tories believe that over the course of the next four months the feel-good factor will surface and

take hold because there is no point in threatening the electorate with possible dangers, if the electorate already feels pretty thoroughly endangered by existing economic circumstances. So it only makes sense if the voters are reasonably happy with their lives and they don't want to put them at risk. That is obviously a questionable hypothesis and so far, despite all the Tories' best efforts, the famous feel-good factor has proved remarkably elusive. So the underlying theme is unoriginal. It is standard party thesis. The risky new twist is to admit that Labour has transformed itself into New Labour. It manifestly accepts the reality that a large number of voters, indeed pretty well anyone under 40, hardly remembers old Labour, hardly remembers the last time there was a Labour government. To constantly hark back to

the problems of the past must be meaningless to that vast swathe of voters and is particularly inapposite given a new, young leader who clearly does not share the extremely left-wing dogma of Labour's history. Indeed, he has been both brave and efficient in sloughing off Labour's historic dogma. It does seem to hand Tony Blair a listful of trumps. It is hard to see why. One of the purposes of all political advertising is to set the agenda, to force the opposition to fight on your ground and, historically, the Tories have been brilliant, as they were at the last election, in forcing Labour to fight on the battlefield that the Tories defined, namely taxation. This time they have allowed Labour to define the agenda. The agenda has become the existence of New Labour and it does seem extraordinary for a battle commander deliberately to allow the enemy to choose the battlefield, but that is what they have done. Winston Fletcher, chairman of Delaney, Fletcher, Bozell, and author of numerous books on advertising and political advertising



Spoof Labour manifesto backfires on Tories

continued from page 1 while warning that Labour's instincts remained a threat because the speed of global change becomes ever faster. Tory MPs, officials and advisors insisted that the initiative would have a long-term impact on the coming campaign. Not least they argue, it would make voters and the media question the meaning behind New Labour's "empty" rhetoric and make Mr Blair more wary about using it "to cover his lack of substantial policies." Mr Blair, who coincidentally pushed his own statement through Labour's NEC yesterday, called the spoof "the greatest political retreat of modern times". He told the NEC: "The Conservatives

have clearly finally decided what their line of attack is. I happen to think it's the most foolish campaign they could possibly come up with. "Their latest strategy confirms two things — that they hurt the country and that New Labour is real. Their strategy will now depend on two things — seeking to create an illusion of a mini-boom and turning their fire totally on Labour. "They have £10 million to spend on what will be the most negative campaign any of us have ever seen. We have to do two things: offer a positive vision, which is where this document is so important, and ward off these attacks. "The next election will be a

battle between hope and fear. Hope must defeat fear." Dr Mawhinney took responsibility for yesterday's spoof, though the idea came from Euro-sceptic backbencher Iain Duncan-Smith and was honed under the supervision of Danny Finkelstein, the ex-SDP research chief. Dr Mawhinney surprised reporters yesterday by insisting that Mr Blair could prove more dangerous than those favourite Tory bogymen Michael Foot and Tony Benn. Officials later likened the situation to the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing, with Mr Blair as the wolf. "This is a theme which will haunt Mr Blair every day until polling day," said Dr Mawhinney.

Tall stories from Ancient Mariner with a line in laughs

First night

Ken Campbell's Theatre Stories Royal Court

KEN CAMPBELL is the Ancient Mariner of British theatre. He may not have the long grey beard of Coleridge's original but he certainly has the "glittering eye" and the ability to spin a great tale. But where the poetic fabulist left his hearer a sadder and a wiser man, Campbell leaves his audience both happier and weak with laughter. In this solo show, part of the Barclays New Stages Festival, he focuses on his life in theatre. Best of all is his account of an elaborate hoax

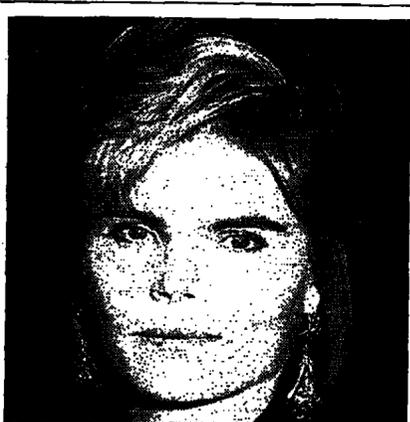
whereby, after the RSC's success with Nicholas Nickleby, he sent out letters to the great and good, purportedly from Trevor Nunn, announcing that it would in future become the Royal Dickens Company. Like all the great hoaxes, it had a prankish malice and just enough plausibility to hoodwink the gullible. But Ken Campbell also has the ability, through his stories, to summon up lost worlds. His account of playing the third act detective-inspector in 1960s rep thrillers ("Look for clues" was his scene-vanishing maxim) evokes an era of vanished art. Even funnier is his account of playing Angus in a Method production of Macbeth and amazing the director by his researches and his conclusion

that the character was "a smelly dwarf" rudely ignored by the surrounding throng. But Campbell is just as good when he strays outside the theatre and describes his experiences in transcendental meditation. He tells how he was given his mantra — which he at first assumed was his mat — and became so obsessed with it that he repeated the magic word, bong, all the way to and right through an interview with Giles Haverall at the Palace Theatre, Watford. The hysterical first half had people crying into their interval drinks. The second half, with its account of the formation of the Science Fiction Theatre of Liverpool, is weirder if marginally less funny; though one particular

unprintable story, involving an endorsement of the company for grant-getting purposes by our own Martin Walker, is a wonderful illustration of the stability of fund-giving bodies. Campbell holds the stage for 2½ hours and proves you can make great theatre out of tall tales. It helps that, with his hairless dome, extravagant eyebrows and accosting snicker, he looks like a manic Iford gnome. But it is significant that his main props are a phallic Easton statue on one side and a Ken Dodd icon on the other. His act has both an anarchic rudeness and something of the other Ken's surreal whimsy. This review appeared in later editions yesterday

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Ernest Hemingway, left, and his brother Leicester, right, both shot themselves to death. The writer's surviving granddaughter, Mariel, centre, has enjoyed a successful film career

Mystery over Hemingway death

Body of model Margaux found on anniversary of grandfather's shotgun suicide

Ian Katz in New York

A DARK new chapter was added to the Hemingway legend yesterday when the badly decomposed body of the model and actress Margaux Hemingway was discovered in her California apartment, on the eve of the anniversary of the shotgun suicide of her novelist grandfather.

A coroner's office spokesman said a preliminary investigation suggested that Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter had died of natural causes, most likely related to her history of epilepsy. But speculation that she may have committed suicide was fuelled by reports that she had been severely depressed.

A neighbour, Peter Osterlund, said Ms Hemingway, aged 41, looked "distressed and unhappy" when he saw her walking through Santa Monica on Saturday evening, two days before her body was found by friends.

Once the highest paid model in the world, the statuesque Ms Hemingway's less than stellar acting career slumped as she battled with alcoholism and bulimia. Last January she was admitted to a psychiatric hospital after shaving her head and announcing she could hear "voices".

Even if she did not deliberately take her life, Ms Hemingway's death will add to the self-destructive reputation of the Hemingway clan. Ernest and his brother, Leicester, both shot themselves to death. The novelist's sister and father also died by their own hands.

Ms Hemingway's grandfather once declared: "There are only two things that can really kill a man, suicide and gonorrhoea." The family has been cited in studies on whether a predisposition to suicide may be transmitted genetically across generations.



Margaux Hemingway, pictured in 1985, was once the world's highest paid model, but saw her film career eclipsed by that of her younger sister Mariel

Ms Hemingway's agent, David Mirisch, said she had recently finished narrating a television wildlife series but seemed depressed. "Until we get this diagnostic report, we don't know if it was an epileptic seizure or if it was an overdose." An autopsy was scheduled for today.

"There is no sign of forced entry or foul play," said a Santa Monica police sergeant, Gary Galliot. "We have no evidence of suicide, no note or anything like that. But we're finding out the secret of Tropicana!"

Last-minute campaigning was officially banned yesterday, but the "for victory, do not dig" message was still being put out. Ivesia newspaper carried a front-page quote in large bold type from Mr Yeltsin's tough new security adviser, Alexander Lebed, urging people to drop their watering cans.

"You must go and vote, if only so that the next thing you dig in your allotment won't be trenches," General Lebed said.

Turnout today is crucial be-

cause Mr Zyuganov's supporters are believed to be disciplined, motivated, angry people who will vote for their candidate whatever happens. Much of Mr Yeltsin's constituency, on the other hand, is seen as a feckless neo-bourgeoisie which would rather Mr Zyuganov lost, but believes the president will fix himself a victory without their help.

About 24 million Russian households — roughly half the population — have allotments and country cottages, or dachas. Many people depend on the food they grow there to eke out their salaries and pensions through the long Russian winter.

With the Yeltsin television campaign repeatedly linking Mr Zyuganov and the Communists to past food shortages — initially recalling empty shelves under Brezhnev, more recently showing gruesome footage of Stalera famine — it would be hardly surprising if the electorate rushed off to check its potato supply, instead of stepping into a polling booth.

who lived much of her life in the shadow of her younger sister, Mariel, was discovered after concerned friends visited her apartment. When she did not answer the door, a labourer climbed a ladder and spotted her body, bloated by the 90-degree heat, through an upstairs window.

Ms Hemingway was a little girl when her grandfather, as famous for his prodigious drinking as his novels, killed himself with a shotgun at his home in Ketchikan, Idaho, on July 2, 1961. Six years later he family moved into the same home.

Standing 6ft tall and blessed with striking features and lustrous blonde hair, Ms Hemingway shot to prominence in 1975 when she was awarded a \$1 million contract to promote a line of Fabergé perfumes.

In 1976, she starred with Mariel in Lipstick, a forgettable saga of a young model who is raped and later publicly humiliated during the trial of her attacker. She never managed to land another big screen role.

Her biggest gift to posterity may have been a California law, named in her honour, prohibiting the mention of a rape victim's sexual history during trial.

Obituary, page 10

Clarke told to curb tax cut clamour

Simon Bewis, Industrial Editor

BANKERS and business leaders yesterday delivered an urgent plea to the Government to avoid squandering the most stable economic climate for a century by offering unjustified tax cuts as a pre-election bribe.

The call came at the British Chambers of Commerce, representing 200,000 businesses, opened its annual convention in Birmingham amid warnings that some sectors of the economy remained vulnerable, particularly manufacturing.

Robin Geldard, president of the BCC, said: "It is important that our politicians keep their heads. We do not wish to see economic prudence cast to the wind for the sake of political expediency, and we urge the Chancellor not to be seduced into a tax-cutting budget which we cannot afford."

His call was echoed by Sir Nicholas Goodison, the deputy chairman of the Lloyds TSB banking group, who said the need for economic stability could not be "overstressed". "Firms are in search of lasting gains from policy stability, rather than short-term incentives such as capital allowances," he said.

The warnings follow similar calls from the CBI director-general, Adair Turner, last week and reflect growing worries in the business community that ministers could be tempted to stoke up the emerging feel-good factor with a tax-cutting Budget in November. Although the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, has said that he will not jeopardise the economic recovery by tax-cutting, business leaders remain unconvinced.

Mr Geldard said that two years of steady economic growth were bearing fruit, with inflation, public borrowing and unemployment figures going in the right direction, even though manufacturing remained uncertain. But he said the forthcoming election threatened a period of political turbulence as politicians sought popularity and advantage. "I am saying, please don't do that."

A pre-election cut in income tax would not be justified by economic data. "It would do damage to what is probably the most stable economic environment for 100 years," he said.

He also warned ministers to tread carefully in reducing tax on businesses, urging them to reform and simplify the taxation system rather than to push through expedient cuts to win support.

The Government is currently reviewing the tax burden on small business and has broadly hinted that it may exempt some firms — particularly shops and rural post offices — from the uniform business rate.

The Government found itself on the defensive over Europe as well, as business leaders remained in a show of hands at the conference to embrace a single European currency, although they made it clear they were firmly opposed to the Social Chapter.

A leading German industrialist yesterday branded the Government's opt-out from the Social Chapter a "red herring", and said Britain had no option but to remain in Europe and join a single currency.

Jürgen Gehrels, the chief executive of Siemens in Britain, said his company's decision to site a £1.1 billion microchip plant in north Tyneside had nothing to do with the opt-out from the Maastricht treaty. He also hit out at Tory Euro-sceptics who have been arguing for Britain to withdraw from the European Union.

"It is simply irresponsible to claim that there is a serious case for UK withdrawal from the EU. On the contrary, Britain will need the EU as much as the EU will need Britain."

Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, argued that whether Britain joined the European Monetary Union or not, it would be under increasing pressure to contain inflation.

"In principle the UK could prosper outside or inside. Our prosperity depends on the competitiveness of our businesses which, in turn, depends crucially on our productivity across the whole economy. We believe that productivity can be developed most effectively in an environment of low inflation," Mr Davies said.

He urged businesses to prepare for EMU, irrespective of whether Britain took part or remained on the sidelines.

Geoffrey Martin, the head of the European Commission in Britain, warned that Europe was likely to be part of an ugly and divisive election campaign.

Yeltsin in a cucumber pickle

Rush to tend allotments threatens president's hopes of poll victory

James Meek in Moscow

THE fateful decision on who will lead Russia into the next century could depend on sunshine, the Colorado beetle and a cult soap opera, as Boris Yeltsin's campaign machine struggles to prevent an exodus of voters from the city to the countryside during today's final round of the presidential election.

Analysts believe a high turnout is essential if Mr Yeltsin is to have any hope of defeating his communist rival, Gennady Zyuganov. But the government's decision to switch polling day from the usual Sunday to the middle of the week may simply have given allotment-obsessed Russians an extra day off to tend their vegetables.

In a desperate attempt to keep voters in the cities and close to their polling stations,

the slavishly pro-Yeltsin television channel, ORT is devoting almost all its morning airtime to a special three-part omnibus edition of the hugely popular Mexican soap opera, Secret of Tropicana.

The episodes, the last in a long series, have been heavily trailed with a breathless promise: "At last, you will find out the secret of Tropicana!"

Last-minute campaigning was officially banned yesterday, but the "for victory, do not dig" message was still being put out. Ivesia newspaper carried a front-page quote in large bold type from Mr Yeltsin's tough new security adviser, Alexander Lebed, urging people to drop their watering cans.

"You must go and vote, if only so that the next thing you dig in your allotment won't be trenches," General Lebed said.

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Voters in Scotland want to know about the ultimate package, particularly the financial arrangements. Even if there is a pre-legislative referendum there ought also to be a post-legislative referendum.

Tam Dalyell

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4 BRITAIN



King Tut's old ale on sale again for only £50 a bottle

Roger Protz of the Campaign for Real Ale has a taste



Harrods owner Mohammed al-Fayed at the launch of Tutankhamun ale, and Roger Protz (top left) examining the merchandise. PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN GODWIN

IT HAS a fruity, spicy aroma with a powerful waft of coffee. It is aimed at connoisseurs and collectors, and it is more than 3,000 years old. It is the most expensive beer in Britain and was launched at an expensive store in London yesterday.

It is an attempt to recreate the strong beer drunk by Egyptians 3,500 years ago. Only 1,000 bottles have been brewed by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries after six years' research by the company and the Egypt Exploration Society at Cambridge university.

Egyptians, Babylonians and Sumerians were great brewers and ale drinkers. Growing grains to make beer and bread turned them from nomads into settlers. But nobody knew what the ale tasted like.

Nefertiti at Armana, where her stepson Tutankhamun became pharaoh. Delwen Samuel, an archaeobotanist working on ancient food analysis, was called in to study vessels from the brewery and from houses in the city.

nel found that the Egyptians brewed with malted wheat known as emmer. The National Institute for Agricultural Botany grew a batch, the first time emmer had been grown in Britain for some 2,000 years.

Scottish and Newcastle brewed a batch of beer and flavoured it with coriander and juniper, which were grown in ancient Egypt and were used to balance the sweetness of malt long before hops were discovered.

Labour executive follows Blair lead

Party leader wins through despite left's anger over neglected issues

Rebecca Smithers and Seumas Milne

THE multi-millionaire publisher Paul Hamlyn has funded more than half the cost of Labour's On the Road to the Manifesto exercise, it was revealed yesterday, as Tony Blair defied leftwing criticism to gain support for the document from the party's ruling council.

for criticising wealthy donors to the Conservative Party, it has agreed to let the Labour-supporting publisher — who has used his wealth to bring opera to "the man in the street" — to stump up £500,000 of the £1 million marketing campaign.

members and the general public through television, CD-Roms and public meetings. In addition to the 10,000 word document, there will also be a mini-version, and a summary of the party's five main pledges, which will be sent to 2 million homes in key seats.

Dennis Skinner and Diane Abbott registered their disapproval about some policies, and the lack of any real chance to change "feeble" pledges. All NEC members had to hand their copies in at the end of the two hour meeting at the party's Walworth Road headquarters — except Mr Blair.

Labour is ready for the election and ready for government, in marked contrast to the Tories, who he accused of conducting "a black war of lies and deceit". Ms Abbott said: "I voted against the document as it didn't say anything about full employment or jobs, and there was no specific commitment to tackling racism."

proposals to "tax the rich" or on a referendum on a single currency. And in a reflection of underlying union concern over the direction of Labour Party policy, a leading official of the public services union, Unison, sharply criticised Mr Blair's manifesto plans to peg public spending within budget limits set by the Conservatives.

Illegal tobacco sales 'should fund under-16s health drive'

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

HEALTH groups and anti-smoking organisations yesterday called on the Government to reallocate the £108 million it receives every year from illegal cigarette sales to children under 16 to mount effective campaigns to stop young people smoking.

stopped and that among teenagers, particularly girls, smoking is increasing. Instead of the Treasury profiting from the ill health of children the money should be channelled to stop young people smoking.

were likely to become regular smokers. The report says around 17 million cigarettes a week are smoked by young people aged 11-15 in England, 850,000 in Wales and 1.5 million in Scotland. It proposes 30 recommendations to cut teenage smoking including tax rises, a ban on advertising and sponsorship, better health education in schools and an effective crackdown on illegal sales by recruiting more trading standards officers to police tobacconists.

economist from York university who contributed to the report, said the Government received £108 million in tax from illegal sales. This was 30 times the spending on anti-smoking campaigns for children in 1994, and 10 times more than the total budget for anti-smoking activities. The figure was on a par with the £100 million spent each year by the tobacco industry in promoting cigarette smoking.

Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "It is extraordinary and perhaps immoral for the Government simply to pocket the money from the illegal sale of tobacco to children. Any teenager who continues to smoke regularly has a 50-50 chance of premature death."

When I thought our marriage had been ruined," he said. Mr Bowles has been negotiating with the agency, which at first denied liability, for 18 months. This week it agreed to make the payment to Mrs Entwistle and a further £1,250 to her husband, plus costs.

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CSA compensates couple for distress over paternity error

Alan Watkins

THE WIFE of a man wrongly accused by the Child Support Agency of fathering a child by another woman has been paid £2,000 damages by the agency for the distress caused.

In 1994 a CSA official telephoned Mr Entwistle and questioned him about a child he was said to have fathered, Mr Bowles said. Mr Entwistle pointed out that he had had a successful vasectomy in 1991, and the official appeared to accept his explanation.

four children. Mrs Entwistle became extremely distrustful of her husband and was so upset that she had to undergo psychiatric treatment over quite a long period. They had just about recovered from the situation after the phone call when their difficulties were compounded by the arrival of the court summons.

when I thought our marriage had been ruined," he said. Mr Bowles has been negotiating with the agency, which at first denied liability, for 18 months. This week it agreed to make the payment to Mrs Entwistle and a further £1,250 to her husband, plus costs.

As scientists and politicians try to agree internationally on addressing the greenhouse problem, there are men in suits making objections. Their perseverance shows the importance of their mission to preserve the short term interests of the fossil fuel lobby at all costs.

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News in brief

Fishermen demand cash for catch cuts

NORTH SEA fishermen's leaders last night demanded compensation after the European Commission used emergency powers to slash herring catches in an attempt to conserve stocks. The fishing industry has already been ordered to trim its fleet by 40 per cent because of depleted fish stocks. Scientists have revealed that mature herring in the North Sea are about half the minimum level to sustain normal fishing.

Drug blunder killed wife

A WOMAN died after she was injected with a lethal dose of painkillers when a doctor at a private hospital misread a colleague's writing, an inquest heard yesterday.

Gunman, 3, starts police alert

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy caused a police alert when he was bought a toy gun to keep him quiet while shopping with his mother.

Tube strike today

LONDON Underground drivers stage a second strike today, with the prospect of increasing industrial action to come. London Transport expects around a third of Tube trains to be running despite the walkout by members of Aslef, but some lines are likely to be at a standstill.

Male rape research urged

RESEARCH to dispel the myths surrounding male rape was urged by academics and care workers yesterday. Studies have shown male rape is far more common than previously thought and may affect up to 3 per cent of men.

Pets set to ferret ahead

THE number of ferret fanciers in Britain is set to multiply because breeders have discovered six new strains of the animal in recent years, according to James McKay, owner of the National Ferret School, based in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

New appeal over cell death

A RESTAURATEUR convicted after a retrial of kicking to death a fellow prisoner in a police station cell yesterday launched a renewed attempt to clear his name — and to establish that he was "tricked" by police officers who were the real killers.

Cancer case doctors cleared

A SURGEON and a doctor who were said to have agreed not to tell a patient she was dying from breast cancer were yesterday cleared of serious professional misconduct.

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Low-key Webber hits note of cynicism

John Mullin sounds out Sir Andrew's latest musical in the West End

SOME folk thought thrice-married Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber must have tumbled out the wrong side of bed yesterday. Others, mindful of Martin Guerre, his knighted chum Cameron Macintosh's forthcoming West End attraction, reckoned Sir Andrew was suffering some sort of dual identity.

There were those who were more cynical. Perhaps, they suggested, Sir Andrew's gloomy predictions for the future of the glitzy musical were simply designed to entice the punters to his new effort. By Jeeves, which opened last night, with a handful of actors in a sparse set, it comes in the low-production category.

Sir Andrew, who is associated with the big musical beloved of busloads of tourists more than anyone else, picked up on Classic FM. He had been doing some sums. He had calculated worry.

"I was doing an equation on the back of an envelope yesterday — what would Cats have cost if it had opened in London this week? My best guess is that it would have cost £2.5 million.

Cats's original price in London was £500,000. "We were £15 top price with our tickets, with a lower VAT rate. Now if we had to open Cats today, to be able to keep pace and do the kind of production we did, if my calculation is right, we would be charging £75 a ticket."

Cats, which kicked off in 1981 with the critics scoffing, is now the world's longest running musical. It has grossed more than £1 billion worldwide. Sir Andrew, knighted in 1992, continued: "We are living in very parlous times for the future of

musicals at the moment, and it's going to become increasingly difficult because commercial theatre is disadvantaged now against subsidised theatre."

He frankly confessed his worry, and suggested Sir Cameron, whose £3.75 million production of Martin Guerre opens this month, was too. "The public simply expected too much these days."

Nick Allott, executive producer of Cameron Macintosh, said: "I've got enormous respect for Sir Andrew's maths, but I'm not quite sure where he gets the figures from. Tickets for Martin Guerre are pegged at £32.50, and we hope to recoup our cost in about 40 weeks, playing to capacity. That's pretty normal these days."

"Our advance sales are about £2.5 million, and that compares with around £5 million for Miss Saigon seven years ago. But we are in different times, and people are not so keen to put down their money a year in advance."

"The danger to the musical is not so much in terms of costs. It is more about talent coming along. The big musicals of 10 years ago are still the big sellers today with the same people involved. André Ptaszynski, behind the production of Peter Townshend's Tommy, wondered if this was the same Sir Andrew soon to bring back to London a revival of Jesus Christ Superstar, which was Sir Andrew's early big success."

He must have slipped out the wrong side of bed this morning. How can he say subsidised theatre is undermining the musical at all? Cameron Macintosh put on Les Misérables with the help of the RSC, and it's been a roaring success for 10 years.



Musical makers... Cats stars Ruthie Henshall and Steven Wayne (left), and Sarah Jane Hassell with Roger Allam in City of Angels



PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL STEPHENS and NEIL HIBBERT

Hit and miss on the London stage

CREATORS: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Macintosh.
Storyline: Men and women dress up as cats and sing along to T.S. Eliot's poetry.
Production costs: £500,000.
Return: £1 billion.
Opened: May 1981 at the New London Theatre.
Run: Surpassed A Chorus Line in January as the world's longest running musical with its 6,138th show.
Review: "An exhilarating piece of total theatre" — Michael Billington

CREATORS: Cy Coleman and Larry Gubart.
Storyline: Broadway award-winning spoof on forties-style detectives and Hollywood.
Production costs: £2 million.
Lesses: £2.5 million.
Opened: March 1993 at the Prince of Wales Theatre.
Run: Eight months, losing £20,000 a week.
Review: "Too clever by half for the traditional West End audience for musicals" — Nicholas de Jongh, the Evening Standard.

Thinking small is recipe for survival

Michael Billington sees a way of dodging hard times for West End musical theatre

SIR ANDREW Lloyd Webber believes the musical is in financial trouble. But it is hard to shed too many tears when 18 West End theatres in London are occupied by the genre, when the commercial straight play is becoming rare and when many artists, producers and investors have grown seriously rich through musicals.

Let us concede that Lloyd Webber has a point: it can take £3 million to stage a big show, and it is often a year, assuming you have a hit, before you go into profit. But there is no law that says all musicals have to be on the mammoth scale of Starlight Express, The Phantom of the Opera or Miss Saigon.

Martin Guerre opens next week. But the runaway success of the modest-budget Salad Days at the Vaudeville is a straw in the wind, and the comparatively small-scale Lloyd Webber-Ayckbourn By Jeeves, which opened last night at the Duke of York's, may well be a similar hit.

In the 1950s and 1960s, musicals came in all shapes and sizes. If now the big shows are becoming prohibitively expensive to stage, one answer is to think small. "Is your helicopter really necessary?" might be a question that producers should ask of composers and lyricists. And, given the vast profits made out of many big musicals from Cats onwards, those who have reaped the richest rewards should plough some of the money back into new shows to keep ticket prices down.

My son admitted killing child, father tells court

David Ward
THE father of the man accused of killing seven-year-old Sophie Hook told a jury yesterday his mind was in turmoil after his son confessed to the murder as they sat alone in a police cell. "I was hoping against hope that he was in no way connected," said Gerald Hughes at Chester crown court.

Howard Hughes, aged 51, from Colwyn Bay, north Wales, denies raping Sophie twice and strangling her before dumping her bruised and naked body in the sea at Llandudno on July 30 last year. His father, describing his visit to Llandudno police station on August 3, said that when he asked his son directly if he had committed the murder, he had replied: "Yes, dad, I did it."

Mr Hughes continued: "He said, 'You don't know what it is to be sexually frustrated'." Mr Hughes said his son had told him he had gone on to a bridge path behind houses in Llandudno. "He said he had encountered some children playing in a back garden in a tent. He had asked one of them, a little girl, to come with him and she had refused. He then left."

Pilot denies killing soldier in 'chicken' game

RAF crews and army personnel played a game of "chicken" with low-flying Hercules transport aircraft, a court heard yesterday. The pilots in a special unit developed a practice of making very low level passes above ground crew recovering dropped equipment. The ground crew responded by waving, cheering and sometimes dropping to the ground to avoid the wash of the aircraft.

Private Christopher Game, aged 22, from Poole, in Dorset, was standing on the roof of his recovery truck when he was hit on the head by the rear ramp of the Hercules, travelling at around 140mph and between 12ft and 14ft from the ground, the court heard.

The Hercules pilot, Squadron Leader Michael Morrison, aged 42, a former test pilot, denies manslaughter. He is accused of killing Pte Game on the afternoon of August 4, 1994, through his criminal negligence, while he was piloting the aircraft in an air drop exercise at the South Cerney military airfield, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mark Evans QC, prosecuting, claimed the pilot was aware that the soldier was in his flight path but he was "indifferent" to the risks he knew were involved. The court heard Pte Game and Sqn Ldr Morrison, both stationed at Brize Norton, in Oxfordshire, were in an RAF and army unit called the Joint Air Transport Establishment, which tested and developed machinery and techniques for dropping equipment.

Mr Evans said that on the day of the exercise Pte Game and other drop some personal belongings in to recover a crate of motorcycles dropped at around 400ft by Sqn Ldr Morrison's Hercules. Normal practice would be to carry out a survey flight of the drop, but Mr Evans said a practice had developed of making an inspection run often at very low levels "for a bit of fun", which Sqn Ldr Morrison subsequently did.

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6 WORLD NEWS



Waterborne rescue... Four soldiers waded through floodwaters to evacuate a baby in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province in south-west China, yesterday. Meanwhile in China's eastern Zhejiang province, the army has been sent to evacuate tens of thousands of villagers trapped by torrential rains, after at least 10 people died and 28 were left missing

Trapped behind bars on Kabul's front line

Gerald Bourke visits traumatised war survivors at the Afghan capital's ravaged zoo, once a showcase of Asian wildlife

THE boisterous, ragged youths who prey on the animals in what is left of Kabul zoo prefer to hunt in packs. They swarm around the compound of a solitary Nuristani bear, poking the lethargic beast with long pointed sticks. Cajoled by his friends, one scrambles on to the roof of the monkey's cage, balancing precariously, feeds discarded cigarette ends to the two frightened inmates darting about below. A loud roar from Agha Akbar, the head keeper, and the boys scatter. Such abuse is child's play compared to the suffering

he dismisses suggestions that he be acted beyond the call of duty. "Mine wasn't the only life in danger. The animals were too. They were my most precious possessions. His attempts to protect them were largely in vain. Missiles, bullets and hungry combatants took a heavy toll. "By the time the shooting stopped last year, there were just three species left." The death of the zoo's only elephant was slow and painful. Denounced by the constant bombardment, it was finally sprayed with shrapnel from an incoming rocket. For the next 10 days it thundered around its compound, howling and screaming, before collapsing at last. Few of the survivors es-

News in brief

Mandela says Major is stalling on Nigeria

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela of South Africa criticised John Major yesterday for stalling instead of taking a lead in applying international sanctions against Nigeria. Mr Mandela said President Bill Clinton was prepared to apply "some measure of sanctions", but he was having "difficulties" with the British prime minister, who would take such action only if he was sure "all other countries" would follow suit. He said Mr Major argued that Britain's contribution to a sanctions campaign would be limited, because it bought little of its oil from Nigeria. "I couldn't get him to be up-front on the question," Mr Mandela said. — David Beresford, Johannesburg.

China warns HK press

A SENIOR Chinese official in Hong Kong told newspapers yesterday to write less about pro-democracy protesters and more about official Chinese statements, saying China's critics were "incorrect" and deserved no more attention. The remarks, quoted by Beijing-controlled newspapers, follow China's election on Monday of eight MPs on their way to Beijing with a 60,000-signature petition asking China not to scrap the elected legislature after 1997. China's foreign ministry denied the existence yesterday of a "blacklist" of Hong Kong undesirables, a sensitive issue in Hong Kong as it carries ominous implications for freedom to travel in and out of the colony once it reverts to Chinese rule on July 1 next year. The denial contradicts the testimony of passengers on a Dragonair flight from Hong Kong to Beijing on Monday, who said police boarded the plane and checked all documents against a three-page list of some 200 names. The eight pro-democracy politicians on board were forced to surrender their travel documents and return immediately to Hong Kong. — Andrew Higgins, Hong Kong.

Arizona bomb arrests rise

UNITED STATES federal authorities yesterday announced a further arrest over an alleged paramilitary plot to bomb government buildings in Arizona, bringing to 13 the number of people detained. The latest arrest took place late on Monday, shortly after the government charged 12 people it said were members of the "Viper Militia" accused of conspiring to spark civil disorder by blowing up federal and local government offices in the Phoenix area. John Magaw, head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), said he did not expect any more related arrests in the immediate future. But Raymond Kelly, the treasury department's under-secretary for enforcement, said some search warrants had not yet been fully executed, "so it's possible there could be more arrests". According to the indictments, the 10 men and two women initially arrested had been training for two years to destroy several buildings, including those housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Arizona National Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Police seized 400lb of ammonium nitrate and other bomb-making components in one of three homes that were raided, and authorities said the Viper Militia had a training video explaining how to "collapse" buildings. — Reuter, Washington.

Lyon reactor breeds protest

A LEADING French physicist, Raymond Sené, protested yesterday against a report which gave the go-ahead for using the troubled Superphénix fast breeder reactor near Lyon for research. Mr Sené, a member of the scientific commission which issued the report, said nothing more could be learnt from the reactor, which has cost more than \$6 billion since construction began in 1974. "This is not the first time that a scientific development has gone up the wrong track, and it needs courage and realism to stop it," he said. But the commission chairman, Raimond Castaing, yielded to pressure to obtain the maximum information from the reactor because of the high investment. The 1,200-megawatt fast breeder was taken out of service for safety reasons two years ago. Its continued use will anger environmentalists, who believe it threatens cities in France, Italy and Switzerland. — Paul Webster, Paris.

Saudis assured law change will stop terrorists

Richard Norton-Taylor and Kathy Evans

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, met members of the Saudi ruling family last night after signalling changes in Britain's refugee laws. Any claim to be denied to individuals engaged in what he called "inciting or directly helping terrorism". Mr Rifkind, on a visit to Saudi Arabia, also confirmed that Britain would propose a change in the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees whereby anyone "aiding and abetting terrorism" would not be entitled to claim asylum. He discussed the proposals with Saudi ministers in Jeddah a week after the bombing of a military base at Dhahran which killed 19 US servicemen. The US offered a reward of \$2 million (£1.3 million) yesterday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the bombers, adding to the \$3 million reward already offered by the Saudi government.

Saudi royal family members are likely to be the militants' next target

Under existing British law, the only overseas crime for which foreign nationals can be prosecuted in Britain is conspiracy to commit murder. The Government is considering how to extend the law of criminal conspiracy to include terrorist activities abroad. Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees expressed concern that the definition of those covered by the proposed new UN convention could be so wide as to affect those refugees with genuine cases. "There are already exclusion clauses to the UN Convention which accommodate the concerns of governments," said a UNHCR official. "This issue also raises the old question of what is a terrorist." Attention has focused on Mohammed al-Mas'ari, the Saudi dissident who recently defeated a Government attempt to deport him to Dominica. British ministers admitted that the attempt was prompted by concern ex-

Anger at Clinton plan to privatise vetting of government employees

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has angered Congress, civil libertarians and leaders of his own party with a plan to privatise the secret investigation of government employees — the very process that has engulfed the White House in scandal for the past fortnight. Under the scheme, the 700 employees of the Federal Investigations section of the Office of Personnel Management will buy out their department from the United States government. They will then run about 40 per cent of the background security checks on new government appointees, saving the taxpayer an estimated \$25 million (£16 million) a year —

and making a tidy profit for themselves. But a coalition of Democrats and Republicans has warned the White House that privatisation could result in the loss of sensitive files, as the current FBI case illustrates, the Democratic senator Paul Simon said. "Turn it over to private investigators and the invitation to abuse is going to be very real." "Even within the federal government we've seen an abuse of sensitive files, as the current FBI case illustrates," the Democratic senator Paul Simon said. "Turn it over to private investigators and the invitation to abuse is going to be very real." There is grave concern that private gunshows might leak, or even sell, the highly damaging material often contained in such dossiers. Background research routinely

US parent-killers given life terms

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

LOS ANGELES judge has shown the limits of the "abuse excuse" yesterday when he sentenced Lyle and Erik Menendez to life in prison without parole for killing their parents in 1989. The brothers claimed to have suffered years of sexual, physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their mother, Kitty, and father, Jose. Judge Stanley Weisberg said the two men deserved no leniency and should serve two consecutive life sentences, one for each parent. "The defendants separately considered killing their parents," he said. "This was a decision made over several days." A key piece of evidence was the brothers' admission that they had paused to reload their shotguns in order to kill their mother; a sign, prosecutors said, that the men acted in cold blood. Prosecutors sought the

Inkatha retains rural support

David Beresford in Johannesburg

THE Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, suffered a setback in his bid to win the first national election, but retained support for his Inkatha Freedom Party had slipped well below 50 per cent. The final figures, released six days after last week's poll, gave Inkatha 44.5 per cent of the vote against 33 per cent for the African National Congress and 13 per cent for the National Party. In the 1994 general election, Inkatha took nearly 51 per cent. The ANC decisively won control of the main urban areas of Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Richards Bay. While the result confirms KwaZulu-Natal as an Inkatha stronghold — and counters suspicion that the general election result reflected ballot-rigging — it also suggests that Chief Buthelezi is unable



Figure of fun... A squid-shaped kite from New Zealand at the international kite festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH MUKHTAR ZAKARIA

Israel strikes in Lebanon

ISRAELI warplanes blasted a Palestinian guerrilla base in eastern Lebanon yesterday, in a strike intended as retribution for an ambush in which three Israeli soldiers were killed last week, security sources said. The jets fired four rockets at the Bekaa valley base near Aita al-Fukhar, three miles from the Syrian border, the sources said. It was manned by guerrillas of the Fatah-Uprising, a Syrian-backed group led by Colonel Sa'ed Moussa, a dissident member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Meanwhile in Jordan, a PLO official said yesterday that Yasser Arafat is expected to meet the Israeli prime minister, Ezer Weizman Netanyahu. — Agencies in Rashaya, Lebanon, and Amman. The Palestinians: special report, page 16

Allies 'wait and see' in Turkey

NEITHER the European Union nor Nato has yet formally sent the customary diplomatic message of congratulations to Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Islamist Welfare Party, as acting prime minister of Turkey. "We have decided to wait and see whether the Turkish parliament votes in favour of the coalition between the Islamist Welfare Party and [Tansu] Ciller's True Path Party," a senior European Commission official said yesterday. Mr Erbakan has said Turkey would honour its commitments as a United States ally. Nato member and signatory to a customs union agreement with the EU. But defections from Mrs Ciller's party in protest at the Islamist alliance could yet deny Mr Erbakan a parliamentary vote of confidence at the weekend. — John Palmer, Brussels.

Handwritten Arabic text: 150 150 150

Today Russians choose their president. David Hearst in Moscow reflects on the campaigns and weighs the candidates' chances

Lebed stakes his claim to power

AS THE alling President Yeltsin prepared to cast his vote today in an election which he has described as make or break for Russia, his security adviser, General Alexander Lebed, was launching the first salvo in his battle to inherit his throne with a stinging attack on the prime minister.

Under the constitution, if Mr Yeltsin were to be declared too ill to carry on it would be the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who would take over presidential powers for three months.

The president stayed out of sight in a country residence yesterday as the officially-controlled media tried desperately to stifle fears about the state of the 65-year-old's health on the eve of the election.

Mr Yeltsin was said by aides to be "working on documents."

A pre-recorded television broadcast to the nation on Monday, in which the president stared zombie-like at the camera, did nothing to dispel the fears for his well-being which have grown since he dropped out of sight on June 26 and cancelled all engagements. He is said to be suffering from nothing more than the after-effects of a cold.

Without referring to Mr Chernomyrdin by name, Gen Lebed unleashed a withering attack on the oil and gas lobby, with which the prime minister is closely associated, accusing it of being a state within the state.

Gen Lebed said: "It has freedom, power and money. It has an international image and it provides for itself an overwhelming influence in all the regions of the country, in the government and in the president's entourage... You have to ask yourself whether it is not the state but the raw material capital that is really in charge."

If Mr Chernomyrdin was to go, a large amount of Western confidence in Mr Yeltsin's reform programme would depart with him. He has kept the Russian government on a low inflationary course by keeping a tight rein on the money supply.

Meanwhile, Gen Lebed has claimed that he has more powers, and has listed all the country's problems — ecological and economic — which he said only he could solve.

"I don't want power for power's sake. I am not a monster... I am a human being," he said.

Without participating in today's vote, the paratrooper general could be the only person who stands to gain from it.



Flower power... An elderly woman in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar sells sunflower seeds in front of a Boris Yeltsin election poster. PHOTOGRAPHER VIKTOR KOROTAYEV

The devil the electorate knows

BORIS YELTSIN ended his campaign as he started it, his voice croaking with fatigue. But in the time between, the Russian president and his team of advisers constructed a towering edifice of a campaign, the success of which lay in turning a referendum on the last five torrid years of reform into a vote on Russia's future.

When the campaign began in February, Mr Yeltsin's personal rating was so low that few could have believed he would go on to win the support of one third of the electorate in the first round of voting.

To secure a second term today he will have to have succeeded in persuading millions of wavering Russians that their real interests lie in voting for the devil they know.

These undecided voters are people who, to a greater or lesser degree, share the opposition's disquiet about the war in Chechnya, the loss of the empire, the flooding of Russia's fledgling market with cheap imports, the collapse of agriculture and industry, and the rise of the mafia.



Yeltsin's campaign

Only a minority of Mr Yeltsin's supporters are diehards who have kept faith in the president as a democrat since his first days in power. They acknowledge the mistakes, but attribute them to the bad boys around the czar, not the czar himself.

strong anti-Yeltsin votes. What is bringing them in from the cold is the fear of the unknown.

Each small businessman who owns his own flat and a couple of kids fears what tomorrow may bring. He has already arranged his "roof" — the agency to whom he pays protection money — and he has paid his bribes to the array of local officials who feed off his profits.

He hates them, but at least he knows who they are. A new leader in the Kremlin would probably mean a new face in the town hall and new underlings after their cut.

Mr Yeltsin's message of stability means familiar faces with an interest in keeping things as they are. But the protest part of the vote is still there. The alliance with former anti-Yeltsin voters is a temporary one.

His vote has been blown up like a balloon, inflated by handouts, nationalism and anti-communism. Previous attempts to construct a presidential party, such as Russia's Choice or Our Home is Russia, collapsed after each election.

is to get back in power, and then all bets are off. Each time he abandons one colleague to find another one. Such was the fate of Yegor Gaidar, the first radical democrat prime minister in 1993, and such might be the fate of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the current prime minister.

Since the first round of voting, in which Gennady Zyuganov came uncomfortably close to Mr Yeltsin, the president has welcomed General Alexander Lebed — and the votes he should bring — with open arms. The question now is whether Gen Lebed can be abandoned as easily as the others.

Each time the national security adviser opens his mouth, his brief gets wider. "National security" now includes control over the economy, the military, industrial complex, agriculture, the price of raw materials, and even the price of a loaf of bread.

Russians are being told that a vote for the Yeltsin/Lebed ticket of experience and youth is a vote for the future. That future is a very uncertain one if Gen Lebed really comes to power.

Mild manners maketh the man

GENNADY Zyuganov's campaign has infuriated the pundits and defied the rules. It has been quiet, staid and conservative when everyone expected it to be ramorous, angry and hungry for votes.

For most of the time the Communist leader has been content to preach to the converted. He holds the support of about 24 million voters, and conventional wisdom, so often proved wrong in Russian elections, dictates that he cannot get much more.

Only in the last two weeks has a press conference by Mr Zyuganov set the political agenda.

His offer to participate in a coalition government provoked up a rich flow of contradictory statements from clan chiefs around Mr Yeltsin.

But Mr Yeltsin's recent disappearance prompted a rare burst of aggression: Mr Zyuganov devoted his precious last five minutes of broadcast time on national television (to which he has been virtually barred access) to branding the president a Western lackey.



Zyuganov's campaign

being a beggar state sitting in the ante-room of the G7 bath house," he said. "You will choose either a strong, powerful Russia or a colonial administration."

But Mr Zyuganov's tone has generally been soft, even defensive. Why?

never stood a chance of unseating a president who placed an iron clamp on all national television channels, and who had unlimited financial means at his disposal.

Certainly Mr Zyuganov was limited in how far he could stretch his own coalition of "national-patriots". From fire-breathing Stalinists who openly advocate the return of the gulag to moderate free market nationalists is no mean distance. To stretch too far into the centre would risk the loss of Viktor Anpilov, the Stalinist of Working Russia who won almost 5 per cent of the vote in the parliamentary elections in December.

Mr Zyuganov proceeded cautiously, and his mildness of tone suited the rabid anti-communists on Mr Yeltsin's campaign team to redouble their efforts. But the more excited his opponents got, the more effectively Mr Zyuganov made his central point that the real extremists are already in power.

In talking about the need for compromise, Mr Zyuganov was prising open Mr Yeltsin's campaign team.

But the Communist campaign has produced one very marked success: its manifesto. Who, for instance, said the following on Sunday?

"The work of the ministry of economics has to change substantially. It has to give priority to the federal and regional principle of planning. I consider the government must strengthen the state regulation of the economy. I am speaking about the basic branches, fuel and energy complexes, transport, machine building, defence industry and agriculture."

It was neither Mr Zyuganov nor General Lebed. These were the words of Boris Yeltsin, the original free marketeer himself.

All the main props of Mr Zyuganov's platform are now mainstream ideas, including constitutional changes to limit the powers of the president and have parliament choose the prime minister.

The biggest advocate of this is Gen Lebed.

Even if he loses this election, Mr Zyuganov knows how close he is to putting not only his policies but his men in power. He will have fundamentally changed Russia's course. He may lose the battle, but win the war.

Spain on alert as Basque separatists end truce

Adela Gooch in Madrid

SPAIN is bracing itself for a fresh wave of Basque separatist violence after the guerrilla group ETA decided not to extend a week-long truce, shattering hopes of peace talks.

Security forces were on full alert yesterday as the interior minister, Jaime Mayor Oreja, warned that he expected a terrorist attack "in coming weeks". But he added that the government would continue its conciliatory approach and stand by a decision to release 32 selected ETA prisoners in jails closer to the Basque country.

The government announced the move, meeting a long-standing Basque demand, after ETA said it had implemented a week-long truce — a symbolic period given that its attacks take place infrequently.

Despite calls from peace groups, and opinion polls which suggested 50 per cent of Basques wanted the ceasefire to continue, ETA failed to extend it. It rejected the conditions put forward by Basque political parties, with the backing of central government, for dialogue to begin. These included extending the ceasefire unconditionally and freeing a prison officer kidnapped last January.

The short-lived truce has been seen as an attempt by more moderate elements in ETA to test the new conservative Popular Party (PP) government in Madrid.

The PP, which advocated a tough anti-ETA line while in opposition, failed to achieve a majority in the general election last March, and was forced into a pact with Basque and Catalan nationalists. Strong co-operation has since been established between Madrid and the Basque regional administration, run by moderate nationalists.

"This is the first test of that alliance since the PP took office, and the democratic forces have come through with flying colours, showing that a long time has never before," said one member of the Basque administration. "That, at least, is cause for optimism."

Those who have followed ETA's 25-year independence struggle, which has claimed 800 victims, say it was almost inevitable that its offer of talks would be stillborn. ETA is now controlled by a radical hardline faction far removed from the group's original separatist aims.

Although support for ETA's political wing, Herri Batasuna, is slipping, the party retained its two seats in the general election. Operationally, the group

remains well-equipped and morale in the police and paramilitary civil guard, after judicial investigations into the "dirty war" fought semi-officially in the 1980s.

"Given that the government reacted to the truce offer with the prisoners' concession, the controlling faction will want to send a message to supporters reaffirming its traditional position that ETA is engaged in a war with an intransigent opponent," one Basque source said.

The decision to relocate selected ETA prisoners to Basque jails, in contrast to the previous government's

policy of dispersing them in prisons throughout Spain, has been widely received in the Basque country.

The last known direct negotiations between ETA and Madrid broke down in Algiers in 1989. The Socialist administration maintained informal contacts, but these were ended by the new government.

The prime minister, José María Aznar, who has stepped up police co-operation with France and diplomatic efforts to ensure ETA members cannot seek safe haven abroad, says any talks will have to take place openly after an unconditional ceasefire.

Athenian lovers get time to spoon

Helena Smith in Athens

AFTER a break of 25 years, the Acropolis has been reopened to the public at night — but only on summer evenings when the moon is full.

"The moon contributes greatly to love," trilled the environment minister Costas Laliotis, who was among the 9,000 who climbed the heights above Athens on Monday night when the hill stayed open until 1am.

"There's no one who will come here and not feel erotic. If you stay a little longer it will make you feel quite Dionysian."

That is exactly why the army officers who governed Greece between 1967-74 latched Operation Vulture, shutting down the Acropolis at night all year round in 1971.

Kos Panayiotopoulos, a guard. "My colleagues just couldn't get rid of them."

Today's ruling Socialists have decided they can live with this. To make the point, only the great slipper marble stairs that lead up to the fifth century BC edifice are being especially lit for visitors.

"I have dreamt of being up here on a romantic night like this since I was a teenager," said the culture minister, Stavros Niarchos, who took office six months ago. "I decided to open it up at the first opportunity."

Karadzic to remain 'president'

Julian Borger in Pale

CARL BILD, the international community's high representative in Bosnia, agreed yesterday that Radovan Karadzic could retain the title of "president" of Bosnian Serb territory, after receiving promises that the separatist leader would have no real power.

According to the deal with the Bosnian Serb leadership, another hardliner, Biljana Plavsic, will take over "presidential functions", but Mr Karadzic will stay on as the head of the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), which dominates politics in Republika Srpska (the Serb-held half of Bosnia).

The deal, which lifts the immediate threat of sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs, was greeted with scorn by Mr Bild's critics, who described it as a climbdown.

Last week's G7 summit in Lyon demanded Mr Karadzic's removal from power and his delivery to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague to face charges.

said he had been assured that there would be a "total transfer" of powers. "From the side of the international community, we will watch the developments over the next few days and carefully evaluate this."

Mrs Plavsic, a biologist and one of the ideologues of ethnic cleansing — which she once described as "a completely natural thing" — said she had no plans to deliver Mr Karadzic or other accused war criminals to The Hague.

Sitting next to Mr Bild, she said: "That is forbidden according to our law. Those who are accused answer only to our courts."

The formal transfer of power was first agreed last Wednesday, but it was left unclear whether Mr Karadzic would retain the title of president. The Bosnian Serbs appear to have won that argument.

John Pawcett, a US analyst at the International Crisis Group (an independent organisation monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement), said: "It's absolutely spineless. Every time we try to manoeuvre with the Serbs, we lose. We have the force here. We should just make him go."

Mr Karadzic scored another apparent victory yesterday when Mr Bild overruled his own deputy, Michael Steiner, on the issue of SDS leadership. On Monday, Mr Steiner said the powerful role of party chief was a public function, so

— according to the Dayton agreement — indicted war criminals like Mr Karadzic were barred from holding the office.

Yesterday Mr Bild insisted that the job was legally a private function and therefore not proscribed by the Dayton treaty. The issue has brought to the surface a personal rift between the Mr Bild and Mr Steiner which several of their staff say is handicapping the work of the high representative's office.

Yesterday's agreement was bitterly criticised by the Bosnian government.



Bob Dylan and the Who are gigging in Hyde Park, the nation is convulsed by football fever and the Labour Party is led by a man who will happily perform three U-turns before breakfast if it wins him a few votes. Yup, the sixties are back.

Francis When G2 Page 5

Justice for the poor

Legal loans are no answer for the needy

THE SINGLE most serious criticism of the Government's legal aid scheme is simply put: why has it taken so long? Forty-seven years on since the launch of the legal aid service, the system cries out for reform: eligibility has shrunk from 70 to 50 per cent of the population; unassisted litigants can be placed in an intolerable position faced by fully-assisted opponents; crucial areas of social need — social security, immigration, employment — have no help in legal representation; and worst of all, the lawyer-led, narrowly-focused scheme shuts out a wide variety of other agencies — arbitration, mediation and citizens' advice — which could achieve less costly and less acrimonious agreements. Civil justice in Britain has emerged with all the defects of the American health system: access restricted to either the very well-off or the very poor with an ever-widening band in between which has to do without.

By no means all these faults are corrected by yesterday's white paper. Indeed, some problems could be made worse. But there are several welcome features. Most welcome of all is the new emphasis on using mediation and citizens' advice bureaux with the aim of ensuring lawyers come at the end of the line rather than at the front. This switch will start with civil and family matters under which advice centres will be awarded exclusive contracts. Advice and assistance are often the entry points for many cases that go on to other categories of legal aid. Skilled mediation could resolve many disputes and pre-empt any need for expensive litigation. Even better, research suggests the process is much more effective than litigation in reducing conflict and hostility.

Then there are various moves, like the extension of "standard fees", which should introduce a long overdue down-

ward pressure on lawyers' fees. New "block contracts" might even persuade solicitors to tackle something even holier: wasteful double manning by barristers and the absurd level of QC fees. The Lord Chancellor is right to point to the huge increase in legal aid. This has doubled in five years and now stands at £1.4 billion. This rise has been driven by lawyers' costs, which have raced ahead of inflation. The Lord Chancellor will effectively be capping legal aid but in a world in which even health spending is capped and rationed, no rational policy-maker could object. The cap will force the system to look for more effective approaches. The new emphasis on alternative avenues should allow legal aid to help thousands more people at the same price.

Where the package falls short is in its failure to widen eligibility, extend legal representation to people using tribunals for their social needs, and its insistence on all claimants making a contribution. There is nothing wrong in principle with this last proposal but it has been pushed much too far. People are already declining legal aid because of the cost of contributions. Only last week a research study showed just how high current charges can be: a divorced mother with two children receiving £46-a-week in family credit was asked to pay £91-a-month in legal aid contributions. Now, if she lost, she would face even higher charges: possibly the full cost of her case and her opponent's legal costs too. Few people are going to take such risks. This is turning a legal aid system into a legal loan scheme. The Lord Chancellor only has to look at the Social Fund to see what a disaster-in-the-making this would be. A contributory principle does help weed out weak and undeserving cases but the current proposal — which even extends to a statutory claim on a litigant's house — is far too oppressive.

Smoothing the tracks to Riyadh

Mr Rifkind's double motives in seeking to change UN law

FLYING OFF to Saudi Arabia, Malcolm Rifkind has announced that Britain seeks to make an important change to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees. The transparent intention is to smooth his way in Riyadh. The visit is designed, say those accompanying the foreign secretary, to end a chill in relations caused by the case of the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Masari — who has successfully resisted efforts to deport him from Britain. The British plan, we are told, would not change Mr al-Masari's current status, but it "would affect future Masaris".

Adding a new instrument to a UN Convention is a serious business which would have to go before the General Assembly and then, if successful, be submitted for ratification. The British move shows no sign of being serious either in substance or in the casual way it has emerged. The idea is to stipulate that anyone who funds, advocates or supports terrorist activity should be denied the right of asylum. This wording is extremely loose: "advocacy" and "support" are almost impossible to define. It is the sort of proscriptive definition found in laws of communist countries which made it a crime to "advocate" or "support" activities "against the state". It was used by them to suppress free speech and would have a similar effect now. But as the London-based Liberty has commented, the language is much too vague to have any chance of being added to an international convention.

specifies (Article I, F, a-c) certain conditions under which its rights will not apply. These include the commission of crimes against peace, and of any acts "contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN". The convention also requires every refugee to conform to the laws and regulations of the host country. The UNHCR is as opposed to terrorism as any other body, but it takes the sensible view that the convention as it stands does not protect terrorism at all, and that it already offers plenty of scope for governments to take necessary action.

There is no sign that Mr Rifkind's proposal is based upon careful analysis of this kind. It was floated past the G7 summit at the weekend, where it served to show support for Bill Clinton's anti-terrorism crusade in the wake of last week's devastating bomb. Now it is being floated in Riyadh to bolster British trade and good relations with the House of Saud. Mr al-Masari has used ambiguous language in commenting on the attack in Dhahran, but if he were not a Saudi citizen talking about Saudi Arabia no one in government would be bothered by what he said.

Mr Rifkind's new proposal comes just one day after Peter Lilley's plan to curb asylum payments has been partly frustrated in the House of Lords. In both cases, there is a clear political motive — one domestic, the other external — in seeking to restrict the benefits of asylum. A principle of such importance deserves much better treatment.

Enter the new bulldog breed

Time to drop the Little England approach to the World Cup

BOUYED by the popular success of Euro 96, the English Football Association now wants to host the World Cup in 2006. A great idea? In principle, yes. But before the bandwagon becomes uncontrollable, how about considering a variation to the plan?

Last month the world football authorities awarded the 2002 World Cup jointly to Korea and Japan. Why doesn't the English FA now think creatively and emulate them with its own joint proposal? The English FA should investigate the practicalities of offering to host the World Cup jointly with Scotland, and perhaps even with the other football associations of the British Isles.

There is sporting sense behind this move, and civic and cultural wisdom too. The World Cup finals are now a 32 nation tournament. That means that the hosts need 16 top class stadiums. Some of the very best on these islands are in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aber-

deen, so two groups could easily be accommodated in Scotland. An even more ambitious version would involve Wales and both parts of Ireland too.

Logistically, such an extended competition presents no problems. The stadiums are there, and the distances between centres are small. The commercial benefits for all participating cities are self-evident. And the wider gain to the culture of relationships within these islands would be enormous. Only two things are missing: agreement about how to deal with the problem of automatic qualification for host nations, and a genuine will to make a joint venture succeed.

Is this not exactly the role for Government? Rather than assuming that such an event should always go to England alone, why not seize the opportunity to spread the goodies more widely and as a practical means of bringing the peoples of these islands closer together?

NEW LABOUR NEW DANGER NUDE ANGER



Letters to the Editor

Building trust in the Balkans

THE myth that "the outside world can only play a limited part in reversing the ethnicisation of Bosnia" (Leader, July 1) needs to be dispelled. Many Bosnians of all ethnic groups acknowledge that the only way in which a fair and sustainable peace can be achieved is through the eventual re-establishment of a multi-ethnic society.

This cannot take place whilst war crimes continue to breach their own resolutions in the UN Security Council and elsewhere, to ignore the provisions of the Dayton agreement, and to disregard those principles set out in the UN Charter to secure international order.

The arrest of those indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity is a sine qua non for any meaningful peace in the Balkans. The trial and eventual conviction of Karadzic, Mladic and others would expose many of the truths behind this war and help convince Karadzic's current supporters that the genocide perpetrated in their name is not in their long-term best interests.

This is the only way in which ethnic boundaries will ultimately dissolve, to allow the environment necessary for mutual reconciliation and a return to ethnic co-existence.

Fans 1, Blues 1
ELSA Murphy's letter (July 1) on police brutality in Trafalgar Square was another example of a fact that many people have known for some time: the police, of which I am a friend of mine, are an easy touch for the police. Witness the media circus prior to Euro 96 surrounding the dawn raids on "hooligans". Would this trial by television be tolerated if aimed at any other minority group?

On the day of the Manchester bombing a friend of mine, a married man and a grandfather, was at Manchester Piccadilly station, travelling to watch the England v Scotland match. He was photographed, videoed, stopped and questioned by the police, of which he estimates there were two dozen on hand. Their comments later in the day regarding police priorities and use of resources, after they heard of the IRA bomb being parked for over two hours unnoticed, can best be imagined.

WHAT Elsa Murphy fails to realise is that the police know in advance when and where to expect violence to occur and to what extent. This explains why they are in full riot regalia. It is sheer fantasy that they come "looking for a fight".

Eric A. Rose, 173 Linden Court, Brunswick Road, London W6 1AL.

It may be only rock 'n' roll, but we like it
WONDER if Caroline Sullivan, your reviewer of the Masters of Rock concert (Park Life, G2, July 1), ever liked Bob Dylan. Eric Clapton and The Who. Those who spent their teenage years loving this music, like myself, were overjoyed by such a fantastic concert. The setting, organisation, sound system, and the music itself, were first-class, if not the weather.

I never thought that I would be privileged to see

Tony, we just love you

THE claim that Tony Blair is a dictator (Blair 1) has been made about every party leader in history and has attracted press interest because the Government has no legislative programme to talk of and because Blair is doing so well that any detractor, no matter how irrelevant, can get on the front pages.

Blair has extended democracy. He will remain a strong leader and will not shirk tough decisions. Those, like Paul Flynn, who seek to call him a "dictator", should consult their dictionary and consider their position.

UNDER Tony Blair's "autocratic" leadership, the Wales Labour Party has nine representatives directly elected by Welsh conference delegates to sit on the national policy forum. 10,000 Welsh party members have voted on the new constitution and, for

the first time, our manifesto commitments will be subject to the approval not just of an NEC shadow cabinet committee, but of the party's national membership.

PAUL Flynn MP will no doubt have wept buckets over our humiliation in the South-east Staffordshire by-election, our crushing defeat in the local elections and the huge deficit by which New Labour trails the Tories in the polls. Where he to discuss The Road To The Manifesto with rank and file members, he would discover how much we welcome the opportunity to endorse the party's programme. He would understand the support the vast majority of members have for getting hundreds of thousands of young and unemployed people back to work, cutting NHS waiting lists and tackling crime.

Sick weather syndrome
DOCTORS are to be sued for the effects of an incorrect life expectancy forecast because a patient claims that living longer than the forecast has caused him mental anguish and loss of earnings. (Larger man angers doctors, July 1.)

Some doctors avoid this type of problem: they give prognoses in terms of probabilities. A patient who is told there is a 70 per cent probability of death within three months has no grounds for legal action after living longer than that time.

Probabilistic prognoses have other advantages. They are consistent with the trend towards evidence-based medicine. Also, they allow doctors to be open not just about their opinions but about their uncertainty in their opinions.

After the 1987 storm, weather forecasters recognised that they could avoid blame for failure to predict a single event by giving probabilistic forecasts. The BMA may learn the same lesson and

recommend that all doctors provide patients with prognoses in probabilistic terms.

I WAS surprised at the complexity of diagnosing my own cancer. People must accept the possibility of error. No one should be given legal aid to embark on a process which will harass and undermine the confidence of people working to the best of their ability and making awesome decisions few of us would like to face.

Dr Nigel Harvey, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

Care but not cash

YOU report that disabled people have won the right to continuing community care from their local authorities even if these councils cannot afford to provide them (Council's cuts in homecare services "illegal", June 28).

Community care was heralded as an initiative which would support individuals in their own homes according to need. Three years on the picture is one of national confusion. The level and availability of services depends on where a disabled person lives and the rate of charging differs from local authority to local authority.

While disabled people find it impossible to foot the bill for the community care system, local authorities may still raise charges to cover costs because of inadequate government funding. Scope, along with other voluntary organisations, is calling on the Government to end its policy of withholding 9 per cent of its grant to social services departments, which again forces local authorities to raise the money at a local level through charging.

GLENDA Jackson, in her defence of Tony Blair (Where's there's a will, July 1) referred to the despair "felt by every socialist" in Tory Britain. I thought the word socialist was well out of fashion with the New Labour Party as it would mean radical change of current society.

DAVID Sharrock says that the Ulster forces lost "almost half the entire division... for the gain of a few hundred yards of Flanders". This seems unlikely since they were fighting in Picardy, many miles to the south.

Somme people
I WAS disappointed with your coverage of the anniversary of the Somme (July 1). Perhaps next year you may take a different path. How about what life is like on the Somme today? Where skeletons still rise from the muddy depths like mushrooms overnight, where the abundance of ordnance still claims its annual victims, and the demand for souvenirs has led to grave-robbing.

DAVID Sharrock says that the Ulster forces lost "almost half the entire division... for the gain of a few hundred yards of Flanders". This seems unlikely since they were fighting in Picardy, many miles to the south.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-posted letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

A Country Diary
CHILTERN: There is always a week in late spring or early summer when the atmosphere in my small patch of Chiltern woodland changes quite abruptly. It metamorphoses from a delicate, vernal grove, ringing with bird-song, into a lush, soundless, sometimes even oppressive, forest.

It may be only rock 'n' roll, but we like it
The Who (with Zak Starkey sounding almost exactly like Keith Moon) perform their Quadrophenia masterpiece live and the guitar solo in Eric's version of I Shot The Sheriff took me back to the days of Cream.

WHY do rock critics persist in making irrelevant and cynical remarks about the ages of performers? Ageism is as insulting as racism and sexism. Would an art critic comment on the age of a painter, a classical music critic comment on the age of a concert violinist, or a jazz critic comment on the age of a tenor saxophonist? Of course not.

Chris Charlesworth, 5 Orillgar Close, London W12 9NF.

Letters to the Editor

PEOPLE like me, who spend our lives, unpaid, promoting the Labour Party and its policies, are tired of the damage that can be done by a small number of MPs who will say whatever our enemies in the media want them to in criticism of the leadership. I would remind Mr Flynn and the Alan Simpsons and Jeremy Corbyn of this world, that it is the leadership, and in particular, Tony Blair, that can be thanked for putting Labour in such a strong electoral position.

Evra Phillips, 36 Pagan Drive, Aqueduct, Tonford, Shropshire TF4 3RQ.

GLENDA Jackson, in her defence of Tony Blair (Where's there's a will, July 1) referred to the despair "felt by every socialist" in Tory Britain. I thought the word socialist was well out of fashion with the New Labour Party as it would mean radical change of current society.

DAVID Sharrock says that the Ulster forces lost "almost half the entire division... for the gain of a few hundred yards of Flanders". This seems unlikely since they were fighting in Picardy, many miles to the south.

Somme people
I WAS disappointed with your coverage of the anniversary of the Somme (July 1). Perhaps next year you may take a different path. How about what life is like on the Somme today? Where skeletons still rise from the muddy depths like mushrooms overnight, where the abundance of ordnance still claims its annual victims, and the demand for souvenirs has led to grave-robbing.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-posted letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

A Country Diary
CHILTERN: There is always a week in late spring or early summer when the atmosphere in my small patch of Chiltern woodland changes quite abruptly. It metamorphoses from a delicate, vernal grove, ringing with bird-song, into a lush, soundless, sometimes even oppressive, forest.

It may be only rock 'n' roll, but we like it
The Who (with Zak Starkey sounding almost exactly like Keith Moon) perform their Quadrophenia masterpiece live and the guitar solo in Eric's version of I Shot The Sheriff took me back to the days of Cream.

WHY do rock critics persist in making irrelevant and cynical remarks about the ages of performers? Ageism is as insulting as racism and sexism. Would an art critic comment on the age of a painter, a classical music critic comment on the age of a concert violinist, or a jazz critic comment on the age of a tenor saxophonist? Of course not.

Chris Charlesworth, 5 Orillgar Close, London W12 9NF.

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Diary Matthew Norman

I AM angered to note that Hello magazine crams the recent wedding of Derek Thompson...

MATURE West Midlands readers seeking part-time work should contact Walsall...

OSWALD, the handkerchief to which Mail on Sunday editor Jonathan Holborow...



RUMOURS that Mr Tony Blair has received the sacrament of a Catholic church...

Seldom, since George Dixon hung up his police force...



Why the writing's on the wall for graf art

Commentary Catherine Bennett

GRAFFITI poses a delicate problem for a sensitive art lover. Many of us are now completely in the dark about how best to respond to graf...

After all, graf artists have to start somewhere. In those randomly placed, thickly initialed arrows and scribbles...

It is fashionable to decry the "blame disease" - under which people are said to find it impossible to accept their misfortune...

It was not just lawyers who attacked Lord Mackay's white paper on Legal Aid yesterday...

Lord Mackay's reputation as a canny and astute handler of the legal brief has taken some knocks this year over the Family Law Bill...

Quite how those on income support are supposed to pay the application fee is not clear...

been that where the state has encouraged people to believe they have a good case...

Norman tries to rectify such ignorance. It's not too late to invest in a graffiti-covered train...

Before being granted this insight, many beneficiaries of graf art unthinkingly applauded the "zero tolerance" approach of Jack Straw...

If the purveyors and defenders of graf have their way, it should not be long before Simon Sunderland, the artist formerly known as "Fisto"...

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spaces and private houses of Sheffield. He has said that only amputation of his hands would deter him from pursuing his vocation...

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expression of low self-esteem and inner-city frustration. Perhaps sensing that in a sea of urban graffiti such gestures may count for little...

But as many graf artists pride themselves on the illegibility of their calligraphy, we cannot be sure that frustration is the burden of their work...

Subsidies and approval must have diminished graffiti as a form of protest, if it ever really was one

art is the object of particularly loving attention. Thanks to the appreciation of art dealers and advertising agencies...

Simon Sunderland protested that he was a serious artist, an argument which has weighed with the Visual Artists' Forum of Bectu...

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graffiti is hardly worth having. You can't win, can you? Far from being a spontaneous, home-grown language of protest...

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No cutting corners on devolution

Tam Dalyell

THE GUARDIAN asks me to contribute my views in my capacity as Bangor's Ghost from the last devolution debate...

Incidentally, long-term, impeccable pro-devolution campaigners such as Allister Mackie agree that there should be a post-legislation referendum...

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which I have been brought up in the last third of a century. If there is any group in this country of whom it can be said "they shall not be moved"...

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Advertisement for WALLGUARD ceramic tube system of damp proofing. Includes text: 'RISING DAMP? TACKLE IT WITH WALLGUARD. A SYSTEM IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 60 YEARS...' and a form for requesting a survey.

10 OBITUARIES

Margaux Hemingway

America's first Babe

THERE were two Margaux Hemingways. One was the fashion icon who flitted effortlessly through the social boathouse of mid-seventies Manhattan. The other, whose decomposing body was found in her Santa Monica apartment, was a swollen, failed actress, enslaved for much of her life to alcohol and eating disorders and, perhaps, the legacy of her famous surname.

Hemingway, who was 41, was the granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway who committed suicide 35 years ago. In one of the many confessional performances that seemed to overshadow her professional ones, Margaux Hemingway said she had found herself "living the life" of the novelist. "I think alcohol drove my grandfather to suicide, but I'm still alive because I did something about it."

Named in honour of the bottle of wine her parents supposedly drank on the night of her conception, Hemingway's life seemed intimately tied up with alcohol. "I was the godmother of a French Bordeaux," she once boasted. After admittance to the Betty Ford Clinic in 1988, she claimed to have brought her alcoholism under control. Symbolically, she changed the spelling of her name to Margot.

Hemingway's success was brief but spectacular. Arriv-

ing in New York in 1974, she showed the city's fast set with her statuesque beauty, engaging personality and alluring lineage. Within a year she was Fabergé's image for the Babe fragrance, which seemed to burst the bubble of her modelling contract and made her one of the faces of the seventies.

The following year she made her Hollywood debut with her younger sister Mariel in *Lipstick*, a bomb that seemed to burst the bubble of her rising celebrity but never landed another major film part. By 1980, she was desperately trying to relaunch her career by posing for Playboy.

Hemingway was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1955, the second of three daughters of Ernest Hemingway's son, Jack, and his wife Byra. Her family lived for a time on her grandfather's farm in Cuba, moving to San Francisco and then to the remote Ketchikan, Idaho, where Ernest Hemingway died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on July 2, 1961.

At 19, Margaux was an unmistakable beauty with a broad, toothy grin and the dimples her mercurial grandfather. She married Errol Watson, who made a fortune from fast-food cartons; he engineered publicity for her, ultimately brokering the lucrative deal with Fabergé. But Hemingway's star plummeted as

quickly as it had risen. Her confidence was shattered by the critical savaging of *Lipstick*, in which she played a young model who was raped. She was already seeking comfort from a bottle. She drank, she said, "to loosen up", determined to emulate her grandfather's thirst for life. Her marriage to Watson collapsed after two years but her second marriage, to French film-maker Bernard Foucher, seemed only to accelerate her decline. As her younger sister's career took off with roles in films such as Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, Margaux struggled to revive her own with an ill-fated documentary about her grandfather and a handful of roles in forgettable films such as *Killer Fish* (1979) and *They Call Me Bruce* (1982).

After more health problems in the early 1980s, she tried to relaunch her career. Though she dabbled in painting and music, the success of her youth eluded her. There were more troubles and more confessions. In 1992 she revealed that she had been engaged in a 15-year battle with the eating disorder bulimia which she suggested had been caused by sexual abuse as a child. In January this year, she was admitted to a psychiatric hospital amid reports that she had shaved her head and was "hearing voices".

Jan Katz



Family fortunes... Margaux Hemingway at the height of her modelling career, as the million dollar 'face' for Fabergé

PHOTOGRAPH KENNETH SALADERS

Veronica Herweil adds: She arrived besmugged from the family estate in the mid-seventies with a perfectly timed old/new look.

The dippy little dolly models — like Twiggy or Penelope Tree — had by then lost their freshness; the French movie actresses, like Dominique Sanda, were suitable for couture only and not available often; and the exotics, like Verushka, would have looked laughable if defoliated of false eyelashes and photographed in the sporty settings which were the newest loca-

tions of the period. In America, pro and amateur sports and the "leisure industries" were beginning their strong influence on fashion and there was big growth in the garment industry in clothes for these pastimes.

American editors began to want to display native healthy good looks — up to then confined to the toothpaste ads — but they needed a version of them uncheesy enough for the pages of the glossies. Lauren Hutton looked almost right, but she was thir-

tish and had a certain wryness about the mouth which suggested an early case of attitude.

Enter Hemingway, improbably tall, with extraordinarily emphatic eyebrows and gums — in the world of fashion, these things count as major statements of individuality. She skirted, swam (her shoulders were probably the first real swimmers' shoulders ever seen in Vogue — she looked like the credits of *Baywatch*, astonishing 20 years ago); she could even wear tennis socks without di-

minishment of glamour. Her bone structure and habit of slicking tight her straight blonde hair suggested the man's woman of the forties (women like the cool "Slim" Hawks, wife to Howard Hawks, style tutor to Lauren Bacall, and a personal friend of Margaux's grandparents) but updated and hoisted up, wearing gold hoop earrings and riding a Harley on the way to a rock concert.

Essentially young, she suggested the old style of patriarchal America but demystified that style through her generous mouth and preference for denims. Within five years, she was the contracted spirit of Fabergé's Babe (a pioneer use of the term in its present meaning) and every NYC catwalk was full of girls with well-brushed hair and that look of having girtders rather than bones. But she'd been first, which is everything in fashion.

Margaux (Margot) Hemingway, model and actress, born February 16, 1955; died June 1996

Michael Wishart

Artist's life in secret rooms

MICHAEL WISHART who has died aged 68, was perhaps the forgotten artist of his generation. A pupil of Cedric Morris, and early associated with those two giants of post-war British art, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud, he never was able to live up to the prodigious success he enjoyed with his first and solo exhibition at the Archer Gallery at the age of 16.

Prono to loneliness and depression, as well as addiction to alcohol and opium, Wishart was afflicted with a dangerously self-destructive streak. Although he never doubted his own genius, his friends often worried that he had dissipated his fantastic talents. "One cannot help feeling, of course that your visual gifts and your literary gifts were not given for nothing," Graham Sutherland told him. But when on song Wishart produced some of the most magical lyrical paintings made in Britain since the war. "Pop is to painting what chewing gum is to gastronomy," he once declared, "and I prefer nourishment"; his many-sided art gave much to the discerning eye.

Wishart was fascinated by genealogy, and his was particularly remarkable; on his father's side he was descended from a branch of the warrior Guiscards of Normandy (where he often painted), who founded the kingdom of Sicily. Of more direct importance, one of his mother's sisters, Kathleen Garman, was married to Jacob Epstein (and their daughter Kitty was married for a while to Lucian Freud), and another sister, Mary, was married to the poet Roy Campbell. His godfather, after he was received into the Roman Catholic church, was Graham Sutherland. Wishart's father Ernest founded

the publishing house Wishart & Co and later ran Laurence & Wishart, the only Marxist publishers in London.

Wishart was an only son, brought up at Pulborough in Sussex. As a child he would often disappear into the fields with a paintbox. At Bedales, where he escaped the sadism of a teacher at his local school — and where he was a contemporary of that ill-fated genius of the French horn, Denis Brain, whom he greatly admired — he excelled at diving and painting.

Wishart's formal artistic training comprised one term at the Central School, attendance at the Anglo-French Arts Centre in St John's Wood, a period under Cedric Morris at the East Anglian School and a spell at the Académie Julien in Paris. After living for a while with his uncle, Roy Campbell, he moved in 1947 to Paris, where he shared a room with Lucian Freud. He was soon in the thick of Parisian artistic life, much of it centred on the ballet, and his friends there included Jean Cocteau, Christian Bérard, and Boris Kochno.

Later he was to be the only person to paint Kupka Nuryev from life. In Paris his patron Peter Watson also introduced him to Denham Fouts, and thus to opium, an addiction of which he was fortunately cured. Through Francis Bacon, Wishart met the painter Anne Dunn, youngest daughter of Sir James Dunn, the industrialist and patron of the arts (he was painted by Sickert, Augustus John and Salvador Dalí, among others) and Irene, Marchioness of Queensbury. They married in 1950, and the wedding reception was held in Bacon's studio. The party lasted two days and three nights and the guests included almost the entire clientele of David Ten-



A wonderfully descriptive eye... Michael Wishart at the time of his first exhibition

PHOTOGRAPH WILLIAM GARMAN

nant's Gargoyle Club and Muriel Belcher's Colony Room. Two hundred bottles of Bollinger quickly ran out as the gatecrashers snowballed.

With Anne Dunn, Wishart travelled to St Tropez, Venice — to stay with Peggy Guggenheim — Morocco, and to Paris where they settled in 1953, and where their son Francis (himself later a painter) was born. Wishart's marriage ended in 1960, after which Anne Dunn married the painter Rodrigo Moynihan.

Following his divorce, and consumed with loneliness, Wishart drank ceaselessly and ended up in a psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of Paris (where perhaps, inevitably, his nurse turned out to be his daughter, Cecile Bérard. "I do not recommend asylums to the sane," he remarked).

After his break with Anne Dunn, Wishart no longer tried to hide his bisexuality. Although he was attractive to, and was attracted by, a variety of women he remained open to all life's pleasures and when at an exhibition at the Redfern Gallery he spotted "a youth of

exceptional beauty", the young Nicky Haslam, he formed a relationship that lasted for the next four years. Wishart enjoyed titillating success as an artist during this period, and was taken up and exhibited first by Peter Brown at the Leicester Gallery's and by Rex Nan Kivell at the Redfern. David Sylvester, reviewing his 1956 exhibition there wrote of "a sensibility that is at once shamelessly romantic and deeply sophisticated, and which endows the wide open spaces of the great outdoors with a sort of hothouse precocity... he is one of the select band of English romantic painters who are truly romantic".

This tribute, and praise from among others, Bacon and Cecil Beaton, perhaps went to his head, and may have contributed to an excessively long barren patch. But his scintillating handling of paint and his confidence in the value of his own work erupted spectacularly into his comeback exhibition after 16 years — at the Parkin Gallery in 1965. An obsession with death and tragedy was offset

there in the pictures he showed of beautifully coloured flowers and by monotypes of exquisite craftsmanship. The exhibition was headlined by one reviewer "Ballet of bad dreams". His company at this time was always charming. But alongside his positive and erudite side, one was always aware of his weaknesses — on occasions he had to be carried from one establishment to another, or he might be found asleep on the gallery floor or upright outside the front door.

Wishart's memoirs, *High Diver*, published in 1977 are among the most unusual and readable of artists' autobiographies. For unlike many painters, Wishart was widely read, and he took as the text of his book a poem by Cavafy.

I went into the secret rooms considered shameful even to name. But not shameful to me — because then what kind of poet, what kind of artist would I be?

His wonderfully descriptive eye and conversational tone was allied to a translucent prose, full of honesty. *High Diver* is full of gems, such as his description of Nancy Cunard's legs, "so thin that it looked as though two threads of her knickers had come undone".

In the last months of his life, the cancer from which Wishart suffered was exacerbated by a cruel and recurring depression and despair at the death of old friends, including Barbara Skelton and Caroline Blackwood. Anne Dunn, with whom he retained a close and loving relationship, visited him daily.

Several of his most recent paintings, based again on the subject of the seashore, were shown to effect in an exhibition earlier this year, at the Michael Parkin Gallery, of British artists who had attended the Académie Julien. But at the time of his death Wishart's art still remains ripe for re-discovery.

Michael Parkin and James Beechey

Michael Wishart, artist, born June 12, 1928; died June 30, 1996

Michael Parkin

Piped down from Yorkshire

IN BETWEEN the two big leaps the Guardian took to become a national newspaper — dropping Manchester from the title in 1988, and starting to print in London in 1961 — it took a short step into the regions by appointing Michael Parkin, who has died of cancer aged 73, as its staff correspondent in Yorkshire.

It would be untrue to say that Parkin covered every important story in Yorkshire until his retirement in 1987 — he had assistants to do that, most famously Bernard Ingham. Rather his value lay in putting a special spin on tales of his adopted county. It was gently humorous stuff that often made the cover of the front page, and made readers aware of the ludicrous situation in a town or village, but whether it was about a docker or a dowager, it never alienated its subject. To outsiders, it seemed effortless, but then they never knew about the desperate hours on the front page, the combing of local rags and last year's diaries, in those pre-electronic times, for material suitable for the Parkin magic.

Parkin was quietly proud of being asked, in 1960, to join the paper, from the Yorkshire Evening Post, the more so because he was 37 and a non-motorist who had to learn fast. It was, he said, "like someone choosing the oldest whore in the house".

Even on the briefest of acquaintance no one would take the polite and considerate Michael to be a foot-in-the-door operator, coming slow to dawn on Daily Mirror hirers who once sacked him within weeks. An example of his concern for others was his insistence on literally putting himself about while touring Normandy. Half an hour after leaving an overnight hotel stop he found he still had his bedroom key. Rather than

post it, he insisted on returning it by hand. "For all I know," he explained, "that nice girl may have been threatened with the sack if she let me move guns, leaving without being asked for the key."

He is survived by his wife, Anita.

Geoffrey Winter

Sir Bernard Ingham adds: Michael Parkin persuaded me to join the Guardian in 1962 when this newspaper was building up its coverage of Britain after moving to London. I thought he would improve my writing. He was then living in what he described as bachelor squalor. He worked in it, too. Impecunious artists would scarcely have been seen dead in the "office". It was found in Brigsteed, where he reached up bare wooden stairs and the only escape from the single room was a 20ft leap into a graveyard.

We gathered there, in those relaxed days, around 11am to begin our newsgathering. Puffing at his pipe, the bearded Michael pursued his quarry imperturbably, apparently confident of finding, for example, that Wombwell, at the heart of the Yorkshire coalfield, was seeking holiday resort status so that it could sell maggots to anglers on Sundays. After a quick call to the Manchester news desk, he went off to Whitelocks for a pub lunch and conversation. Thus fortified, he pursued his inquiries and wrote another gem before returning to the pub and more "dry" humour.

A Liberal, he willed me to become a Labour politician in our three years together. I distinctly remember one day, at the end of an interview, being appointed him. But I am sure he derived my amusement from it. He was one of nature's bystanders who converted his reflections into lovely prose.

Michael Parkin, journalist, born August 2, 1922; died June 30, 1996

Birthdays

Prof Jean Aitchison, psychologist, 88; **Evelyn Anthony**, historical novelist, 68; **Tom Cruise**, actor, 34; **Sandra Davis**, family lawyer, 40; **Judith Durham**, singer, 53; **Brigitte Fassbender**, mezzo-soprano, 57; **David Gandolfo**, racehorse trainer, 68; **Sir Richard Hadlee**, former cricketer, 45; **Carlos Kleiber**, conductor, 66; **Iain Macdonald-Smith**, yachtsman, 51; **The Rt Rev Dr William McMillan**, moderator of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, 68; **Susan Penhaligon**, actress, 47; **Ken Russell**, film director, 68; **Baroness (Sue) Ryder** of Warsaw and Cavendish, founder of homes for the disabled, social worker, 73; **Judge Dame Heather Steel**, 66; **The Rt Rev Dr Wright**, 59; **Gary Waldhorn**, actor, 53; **Ed Wallis**, chief executive, Powergen, 57; **Hilary Williams**, director, International Diabetes Federation, 47.

Death Notices

CHANDLEY Peter Walter OBE, MVO, died on 27 June 1996 at St Catherine's Hospice, Brighton. Celebration of his life at 13 Parkbridge Place, London WC2, on 5 July. No flowers. Donations to Boston Village School, Norfolk. Inurned at St Paul's Church, London WC2.

COPPACK Tom, died peacefully at home on 28th June 1996. Greatly missed by his wife Pat and his children Karl and Karen. Inurned at St Paul's Church, London WC2.

DAVIS, Gwylher Barbara died on Saturday June 23rd at Hammersmith Hospital of lung cancer. Celebration of her life at 13 Parkbridge Place, London WC2, on 5 July. No flowers. Donations to Boston Village School, Norfolk. Inurned at St Paul's Church, London WC2.

GRAY, Peter Michael Davidson, (born 1922), died on 27 June 1996. Funeral at the West Chapel, Golden Square Crematorium, 2.30 pm on Friday, 5 July 1996. Friends followed by private interment. Flowers welcome.

LUNN, Tim died 27 July 1996. Funeral at the West Chapel, Golden Square Crematorium, 2.30 pm on Friday, 5 July 1996. Flowers welcome.

MITCHELL, Michael, On June 29th, 1996 in Norwich. Retired Dentist. Much loved by friends and family.

TANNER, on the 21st of July peacefully at home. J.F. aged 86 of Moseley, London. Burial at St. Martin's Church, Moseley, on Friday, 5 July. Strictly no flowers. Inurned at the Moseley Crematorium, 11.30 am on Friday, 5 July. Donations to St. Martin's Church, Moseley, on Friday, 5 July. Flowers welcome.

Engagements

WALKER, Dr. R. and Miss Z.A.K. Chapp, The wedding ceremony will be held at St. Paul's Church, London WC2, on Friday, 5 July 1996. Friends followed by private interment. Flowers welcome.

Jackdaw



Conned

ADVERTISEMENTS Make Millions Without Even Working! It Can't Be True. No, of course it can't. But by using the tried and tested methods that have made me a millionaire by the age of twenty-four, you too can join the ranks of the wealthiest men in Britain without working more than ten hours a week! Yes, that's right! And you don't have to take my word for it — proof of the success of my methods can be seen from the following quotations: "I've never thought I could be

so rich without doing any work." Mrs PR. Wolverhampton. Yes, how could you possibly doubt the word of JT of Leicester, and Mrs PR of Wolverhampton? Send today for *Secrets of the Great Cosmos* and *That, and in a few days you too will be a millionaire.* £16.95 & £3.95 P&P—E20 Cash only please. Advertisement: Ignore This Sort of Nonsense! I, Paragrine Traverser, used to lose vast sums of money responding to foolish adverts in newspapers. All of them would promise the earth but deliver nothing but disappointment. Yet, now I have a fulfilled life and live in a style which before I could only dream of. The secret? I simply started ignoring foolish advertisements and suddenly found that my disposable income soared to previously unimaginable levels.

My new book can help you too to live like a king, as all my secrets go down in print for the first time. How to Ignore Stupid Advertisements in the Newspapers, can be yours for only £16.95, and I can guaran-

tee that once you have received it, you will never again be tempted to respond to a stupid advertisement in the newspapers. We regret that we cannot offer a money-back guarantee as it would be counter-productive. NOUVELLE KRINZ Super soft bathroom tissue for people with sensitive rings. TOM BAGEL & SONS Guns for children and Murderers since 1746. No child too young, no murderer too psychotic. We also stock explosives. NOUVELLE KRINZ Cheap horrible, dirty, oily rags with sand and grit all over them. For people who just don't care. Advertising Galvometer magazine style.

Gender gap?

Maturity: women mature much faster than men. Most 17-year-old females can function as adults. Most 17-year-old males are still trading baseball cards and giving each other wedgies after gym class.

This is why high school romances rarely work out. Magazines: men's magazines often feature pictures of naked women. Women's magazines also feature pictures of naked women. This is because the female body is a beautiful work of art, while the male body is lumpy and hairy and should not be seen in the light of day. Men are turned on by the sight of a naked woman's body. Most naked men elicit laughter from women. Writing: to their credit, men do not decorate their penmanship. They just chicken-scratch. Women use ridiculously large loops in their p's and g's and coloured paper. Locker rooms: in the locker room men talk about three things: money, football, women. They exaggerate about money, they don't know football nearly as well as they think they do, and they fabricate stories about women.

Women talk about one thing in the locker — sex. And not in abstract terms either. They are extremely graphic and technical, and they never lie. Directions: if a woman is out driving, and she finds herself

in unfamiliar surroundings, she will stop at a gas station and ask directions. Men consider this to be a sign of weakness. Men will never stop and ask for directions. Men will drive in a circle for hours, all the way saying things like, "Looks like I've found a new way to get there," and "this is a short cut, so shut-up". Cameras: men take photographs very seriously. They'll shell out \$4,000 for state-of-the-art equipment, build dark rooms and take photography classes. Women purchase Kodak Instamatics (and get better pictures). Time: when a woman says she'll be ready to go out in five minutes, she's using the same meaning of time as when a man says the football game has just got five minutes to go. Restrooms: men use bathrooms for purely biological reasons. Women use them for social gatherings. Never in the history of the world has a man excused himself from a restaurant by saying, "Hey, I was just about to take a leak. Do you want to join me?" Common characteristics at www.mps.org/trainbow/words

Read art

GOOD ideas are not hard to come by, and for a life that willis its own development, acting on a good idea is essential practice. Generally, this means disregarding or revising an old idea. Yet loyalty to a particular ideology or doctrine can be so great that to ignore the advantages which a new idea can offer is to act in spite of yourself in a stubborn



gesture of pride. By choosing against your better sense, by choosing insanely, you fall in your duty to those around you. Your duty is not to save face, but to change your face, as the world changes around you.

Of course loyalty disguises fear — if you choose an idea whose (perhaps) radical consequences would effect great personal change, then the personality which you've spent so much time cultivating for yourself would probably wilt, and die a slow and painless death. Your friends and colleagues might eye you differently and their voices might quaver a little. Yet anyone who, in a continuous act of self-renewal, makes a habit of taking on new ideas will tell you that, though his friends may desert him, the confidence, calm, and individuality which he gains will bring him deeper friendships and greater awareness — both of himself and the world. He will have no need of clubs, or the crutch of a social clique, for he will no longer be afraid of himself.

Culture club... Creator

Many believe that someone who assimilates the idea of another is no more than an intellectual thief. Nation states, political parties and religious groups, friends even — view their ideas as they would their property, as a material wealth which must be protected. If then, you decide that one of their ideas might be a useful tool in your own life they instantly demand some kind of pay-back: your undying allegiance, or recognition of their superior imagination. To refuse such demands is to risk ridicule and alienation. It is to compromise yourself. Such a compromise are of no consequence to a person of ideas, because ridicule, alienation and compromise are the stony cards to a life of little change. Editor's philosophical intro to Creator, design mag.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail Jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

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July 1996

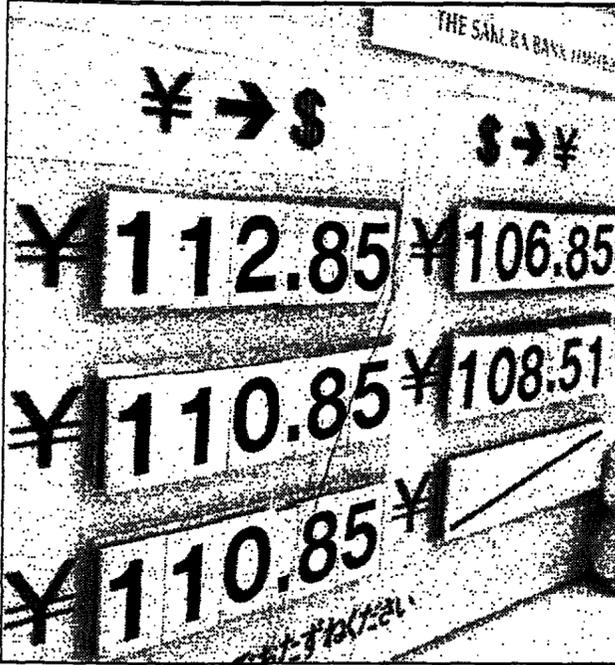
Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Dollar soars as Fed is set to hold line on interest rates

Mark Tran in New York

THE dollar rose yesterday to its highest level against the yen since January 1994 as Wall Street counted on the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged at the two-day meeting of its open market committee.



Way back yen... Sakura Bank staff in Tokyo record the Japanese currency's fall below the key level of 110 to the dollar for the first time in nearly 30 months

Notebook

Expect Clarke to keep powder dry



Edited by Alex Brummer

AFTER the quarter point cut in base rates in June... which came out of a clear, blue sky...

price maintenance for medicines. The company is keen to tell the City about aggressive new marketing plans which will persuade more people to swallow more medicines...

Emergency inquiry by Commons select committee unveiled as transatlantic 'open skies' talks begin

MPs investigate BA link-up

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

MPs are to make an emergency inquiry into British Airways' proposed tie-up with American Airlines...

The inquiry follows the Office of Fair Trading decision to examine the tie-up and news that two key directorates of the European Commission will today initiate a broad investigation into airline services across the Atlantic.

He countered the claims of rivals, notably Virgin Atlantic, that the deal would be anti-competitive. Speaking at the annual convention of the British Chambers of Commerce, Mr Ayling said: "Does Britain want to be a major competitor in a global airline system or not? That is the major issue."

Two airlines would together end up having a smaller share of an expanded and more competitive market. The BA chief said that there was no fixed timetable for the regulatory investigations but stressed that the two airlines had set themselves the task of completing the alliance by April next year.

He said that although inquiries into the deal by British, US and European competition authorities were inevitably inter-linked with bilateral "open skies" talks in Washington, the future shape of air transport policy between the two nations would be the appropriate context in which to judge the proposed tie-up between BA and American, he said.

Mr Ayling's assurances that the deal would not hurt his competitors is unlikely to wash with Virgin. Mr Branson has warned that the deal would push up prices and last week used the inaugural flight of a new Washington service to lobby against the deal and whip up US protest against the proposed alliance.

Water firm directors to clean-up

Rebecca Smithers, Geoffrey Giblin and Nicholas Barnister

THE water industry's attempt to rebuild its image is about to be shattered by Yorkshire Water's decision to boost directors' pay after a summer of shortages and legal action against the company for allegedly supplying water unfit for human consumption.

package of £56,000, up from £136,000 the previous year. Earlier this month the company announced record profits of £122 million for 1995-96 despite 47 million being spent on a round-the-clock tanker operation to bring water to a drought-hit West Yorkshire last summer.

British Energy sell-off under threat

Ian King and Nicholas Barnister

TOP City broker yesterday gave nuclear generation the cost of surplus power not being sold directly to consumers, means British Energy should only be worth between £1 billion and £1.2 billion.

Warburg also warns that British Energy will not be able to meet the ambitious pay-out targets it has set itself and may have to cut its dividend within five years of coming to market.

According to Warburg, British Energy's shares should provide a yield of 10 per cent, suggesting a value of around £1.2 billion for the company, which it says takes no account of a possible dividend cut, and which is still "not generous" compared with other utilities.

llyst said he doubted whether British Energy's earnings would be sufficient to cover its dividend pay-outs for at least the next 10 years, adding the outlook for pool prices was extremely cautious.

Cowboy bailiffs to be frozen out in attempt to repair image

COWBOY bailiffs will be frozen out of lucrative court and private business under new proposals to police the industry. A complaints panel and strict supervision of private bailiffs, partly in response to the criticism that engulfed the industry during the poll tax debacle.



authority work distracting goods under a court order in lieu of magistrates' fines or council tax. The association hopes to encourage courts and other customers to use only the 1,500 certificated bailiffs in England and Wales.

Sweeteners for borrowers unsustainable, says C&G

Teresa Hunter

THE days of discount mortgages and cash-backs could be numbered after the UK's fourth largest lender, Cheltenham & Gloucester, said it was reducing its bargain offers.

Boots The Chemists writes own prescription for making money

Roger Coore

BOOTS The Chemist plans to capitalise on privatisation of healthcare as part of an aggressive campaign to boost sales which includes more persuasive drug marketing and extension of the chain through new stores and new forms of community pharmacy.

Table with 5 columns: Country, Bank Sell, Country, Bank Sell, Country, Bank Sell. Lists exchange rates for various countries like Australia, France, Germany, etc.

12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Radical reshaping with 'greater growth potential' will cost 5,000 jobs worldwide

Shake-up at CS Holding jolts Swiss bank sector

John Glover in Milan

THE Swiss banking industry yesterday suffered another seismic jolt when CS Holding, the country's largest banking group, announced a radical shake-up at the cost of 5,000 jobs worldwide.

The group said it would reorganise itself into four separate business units under one executive board. These are to be organised under two banks, Credit Suisse for the retail segment and Credit Suisse First Boston for all investment banking and corporate lending outside Switzerland.

The renamed and reshaped Credit Suisse First Boston is designed to take on rival global groups like Deutsche Bank and will, according to CS Holding chairman, Rainer Gut, have its focal point in London.

CS Holding said it was responding to the banking industry's globalisation, with the new structure allowing for "greater growth potential, new efficiencies and reduced duplication" and turning it from a Swiss bank with international activities into an international financial institution with a Swiss HQ.

Of the 5,000 jobs going worldwide over the next two-to-three years, 3,500 will come from Switzerland and the rest elsewhere, but market

sources said the bank's London operations would be little affected, suggesting that New York would bear the brunt.

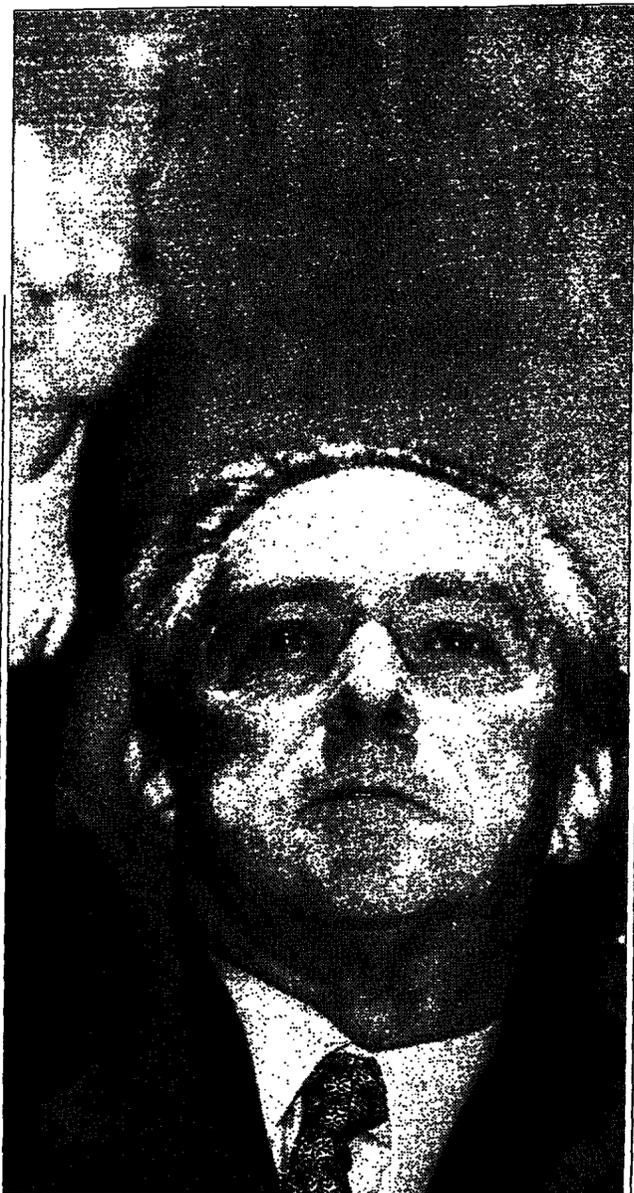
The group also created the powerful new post of group chief executive which is to be filled from January 1 by Lukas Muehleemann, chief executive of insurance giant Swiss Re with which it is linked.

Some analysts yesterday speculated that it was the failure of the board to promote Josef Ackermann, the current president of Credit Suisse, to the new job that had prompted his resignation, also announced yesterday.

In a statement, the company said his departure was "due to differing views". This led other observers to speculate that it was Mr Ackermann's identification with the group's previous strategy of having two brands in high street banking that had caused him to leave.

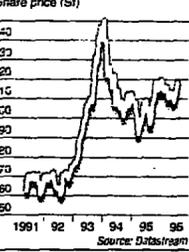
CS Holding, which is to rename itself Credit Suisse Group, said that it would make a \$1.1 billion (£313 million) provision this year to cover restructuring costs. However, it expects cost savings of around \$670 million a year once the new structure is in place.

Under it, the Credit Suisse retail arm will cover Swiss domestic banking through Credit Suisse Volksbank and deal with super-wealthy individuals through Credit Suisse Private Banking. In the wholesale market, Credit Suisse First Boston will handle the huge institutional asset management business through the Credit Suisse Asset Management brand name.



Pointing the way... CS Holding chairman Rainer Gut

CS Holding



Rejig will bring group into sharper focus

Mark Milner says new strategy has got dealers and shares hopping

LESS than three months ago Union Bank of Switzerland rejected the advances of CS Holding, parent of the Credit Suisse banking group, with a speed which was almost embarrassing.

Faced with such a perfunctory dismissal of its merger move, CS Holding had little choice than to show it was capable of producing an alternative strategy — and quickly.

For two weeks Swiss share dealers have been bidding up the price of the group's shares in anticipation that a wide ranging reorganisation package was on the way. They have not been disappointed.

The shares got another kick yesterday after news of a new structure for the bank, a new boss and a planned payroll reduction that will see the loss of some 5,000 jobs over the next few years.

The departure of Josef Ackermann from his post as president of the Credit Suisse executive board will have raised few eyebrows. Mr Ackermann was once the heir apparent to CS Holding chairman Rainer Gut but some suggest his star has been on

the wane for more than a year. More intriguing is the arrival of Lukas Muehleemann from Swiss Reinsurance. Mr Muehleemann is said to be close to Mr Gut, who is also on the board at Swiss Re.

More to the point perhaps is the performance of the Swiss Re share price since Mr Muehleemann moved in two years ago and promptly sold half his shares.

Swiss Re shares have soared from around SF300 to around SF1270 since Mr Muehleemann took over as chief executive, though at least some analysts are cautious about giving him all the credit.

Mr Muehleemann is likely to be hard pressed to realise

some of the expectations already being put in place as he tries to build a homogenous group from a diversified organisation that has been expanded by a string of 1990s acquisitions.

A more realistic bench mark may be the group's Swiss rivals, which are also under pressure to improve returns.

Certainly, the reorganisation should give the group a sharper focus. Renaming the group Credit Suisse, rather than the anonymous CS Holding, should help provide a clearer definition.

There are risks, however. Putting the domestic banking arm of Credit Suisse into a single entity with those of

Swiss Volksbank will no doubt save costs, but it is by no means certain that customers of the two separate businesses will remain in bloc with Credit Suisse Volksbank.

Rivals Swiss Bank Corporation and UBS are likely to try to exploit any opportunities that may occur.

It remains to be seen if the savings Credit Suisse is penning in from the restructuring will actually materialise. Yesterday's announcement is unlikely to be the final word.

According to Matthew Czepliewski, European banking analyst at Salomon Brothers: "I don't think this is the last of it. I don't think this is the optimal structure."

Small firms 'starved of support from Tecs'

Workforce/Labour hits at lack of help for managers, reports Celia Weston

SMALL businesses are lauded by the Government and Labour as the source of greater employment and increased competitiveness, but Training and Enterprise Councils (Tecs) are failing to give them the support they need, according to shadow small firms minister Barbara Roche.

Only a tiny proportion of

Tec budgets is spent on management training for smaller firms, according to figures released yesterday by Mrs Roche.

The figures show large regional variations, too, with the Isle of Wight (11.79 per cent) reporting the highest percentage which could be spent on such training and Qualitec

in Merseyside (2.1 per cent) the lowest.

"If small businesses are to succeed and help Britain become competitive again they need access to the highest quality management training possible," Mrs Roche said. "Yet these figures — which the minister admits are an overestimate — show that a tiny fraction of Tec budgets goes into vital training for small firms."

The point being made by Mrs Roche may be a party political one, but it reflects

many of the concerns critics of Tecs have expressed about the employer-led organisations.

This week the 31 Tecs of England and Wales hold their get-together in Birmingham, where policy will be debated and good practice exchanged.

Fundamental problems, not least about the still piecemeal provision of training and business support, remain unresolved. And they are likely to become more acute in the run-up to an election.

Responsibility for economic development, for instance, will be a policy battleground as the Government and some Tec favour mergers with Chambers of Commerce, giving Tecs a strategic role in local economies — and, they hope, in the one-stop shop Business Links.

Labour, however, appears to favour structures bound to give local authorities the leading role.

As the Tec consultation paper going to Birmingham says, involving the business community "requires new forms of local Economic Development Partnerships... supplanting old-fashioned views of leadership and primacy for one player by the recognition of mutuality of benefit and equity of contribution from all".

Conflicts between Tecs, the Government and Labour are also being signalled around future provision for the long-term jobless, particularly the Training for Work pro-

gramme. Tecs may — or may not, depending on which draft of the hastily-edited policy paper you read — unite behind an attack on the benefits system because it acts as "a disincentive to individuals to undertake training and rewards passivity."

But the most fundamental question of all is whether the Tecs will deliver or whether they are only playing the game.

There were high hopes for a revolution when the Tecs were launched with the task, in the words of the founding prospectus, to "foster economic growth and contribute to the regeneration of the community by strengthening the skill base and assisting local enterprise to expand and compete effectively."

Unfortunately Government-imposed policy priorities — such as the skills base and assisting local enterprise — have forced Tecs to concentrate on training the young and the long-term jobless on ever-shrinking budgets, now around £1.2 billion — down from £3 billion in their first year.

The introduction of rolling three-year budget programmes and marginally increased spending discretion are reforms which go some way towards releasing Tecs from the 12-month myopia of the Treasury spending round. So far 64 Tecs have secured three-year operating licences and the expectation is that all will have done so by April next year — perhaps just in time for the election.

Digital set to wield axe, too

Computer firm to 'restructure'. MARK TRAN in New York reports

BRITISH workers employed by America's third largest computer firm, Digital Equipment, were last night braced for a new wave of job cuts after the group announced plans to axe 7,000 jobs worldwide.

The company unveiled the redundancy plans as part of a \$475 million (£313 million) restructuring plan. This will bring its global workforce spread throughout 100 countries, down to about 54,000 from a peak of 120,000 in 1991.

Richard Jones, managing director of Digital Electronics in the UK said last night that most of the job cuts would be elsewhere in Europe.

In all, the UK operation employs about 6,000 people. Of these, 2,000 work at two main manufacturing sites in Scotland — one in Ayr, which was opened 20 years ago, the other at Irvine, South Ayrshire, where Digital makes personal computers. A further 4,000 people are employed at offices around Britain, principally in London, Reading, Leeds and Warrington.

Digital said that the cuts would be "distributed fairly evenly" between Europe and the US, although company chairman Robert Palmer provided no precise figures.

"This additional restructuring enables the company to move to the next level of efficiency and lower cost structure necessary to attain competitive financial performance," Mr Palmer said in a statement.

Wall Street had expected Digital to report a profit for the quarter which ended June 29, but the company warned that profits would fall "well below" expectations because of excess inventories, price cuts and slumping sales in Europe. Mr Palmer said that Digital was caught off-guard by the slowdown in Europe.

Sales in the region came in \$150 million below target, but Mr Palmer said that Europe was beginning to recover.

"The UK is starting to see some recovery and we're optimistic the business will strengthen there," he said — adding that Digital will beef up its direct sales force instead of relying so much on sales partners.

Yesterday's restructuring plan followed the abrupt resignation of Enrico Pesatori, head of Digital's computer systems division, his heir apparent to Mr Palmer, Mr Pesatori's duties — running Digital's midrange and personal computer business — will be taken over temporarily by Mr Palmer.

Digital was already experiencing problems with its PC business which saw a 10 per cent decline in revenue in the first three months of this year compared with the comparable quarter in 1995.

"This is clearly a disaster," said analyst David Wu.

He said Digital's previous restructurings and partnerships with Microsoft, Oracle and Computer Associates should have put the company on track.

Digital, based near Boston, lost \$6 billion during the early 1990s as it made the transition from mini-computers to personal computers.

US Names 'could kill Lloyd's deal'

Pauline Springett

LLOYD'S of London has publicly admitted that problems with US financial regulators could derail its \$3.1 billion offer to settle disputes with the insurance market's loss-making investor Names.

A Lloyd's spokesman said yesterday that the market's chief executive, Ron Sandler, had told a meeting earlier this week that "there was a remote possibility that the activities of the Americans could derail R&R".

R&R is the proposed \$3.1 billion rescue deal which the market hopes to finalise by the end of the summer. The deal is facing stiff opposition from US regulators who argue that American Names were dealt with fraudulently by Lloyd's when they joined the British insurance market.

In an attempt to iron out the difficulties, a delegation of US regulators has this week held intensive talks at Lloyd's. The regulators are believed to be particularly uneasy over Lloyd's proposal to ask Names to reinsure their 1992 and earlier liabilities into a separate insurance company, Equitas. These are apparently concerned that Equitas might contravene US securities laws.

The spokesman said that, to defuse the row, Lloyd's might allow the American Names to reinsure not into Equitas but into something similar which would meet with the approval of the US regulators.

Meanwhile, Lloyd's was yesterday criticised by respected market analyst Chatwood for its plans to give a \$400 million payout to Names who were underwriting in 1993 on top of the expected £1 billion profit for that year.

Chatwood director Charles Sturge said the \$400 million actually belonged to Names who underwrote in earlier years — thousands of whom had stopped underwriting in 1993. That payout, said Mr Sturge, would be the sum of money which Lloyd's estimates has been over-reserved for Equitas.

"Is this largesse fair, necessary and prudent? We think not. It is not fair because if the surplus of reserves is genuine it belongs to the 1992 and prior Names," said Mr Sturge.

A Lloyd's spokesman, who said the Chatwood figures were roughly correct, said: "On has to agree that R&R does contain a degree of rough justice."

Lloyd's reports its results three years in arrears and its 1993 figures are due next week.

British Gas set for price review clash

BRITISH Gas is heading for a Monopolies Commission showdown with Clare Spottiswoode, director general of Ofgas, over her plans to cut consumer bills through new price controls for the gas supply business. The group's official response to the proposals, published yesterday, shows that it has failed to persuade Ms Spottiswoode to water down her proposals despite more than four weeks of talks.

It has rejected most of Ofgas's main proposals, claiming many are based on inadequate research or calculations and that they would result in an unacceptable squeeze on profits.

Philip Rogerson, BG's deputy chairman, said there were a number of Ofgas proposals which British Gas Trading (BGT), the group's supply arm, could support, but many others continued to give "serious cause for concern". — Nicholas Bannister

Orange doubles numbers

ORANGE, the digital mobile phone group which went public in March this year, continued to expand its subscriber base during the second quarter of 1996, adding 85,000 new customers. The group had 573,000 customers by the end of the quarter, almost double the level a year ago. It has managed to maintain revenue per customer at an annual rate of about £45.

Industry analysts estimate the number of cellular phone users in the Asia Pacific region will outstrip the number in Europe by the end of the year. At present there are about 22.9 million in Europe and 22 million in Asia Pacific. — Nicholas Bannister

BTR raises £9m more

BTR raised a further £9 million yesterday by selling its Kee Klamp Group. The industrial holdings group, which plans to sell 20 per cent of its operations, has raised £490 million from sales this year. Kee Klamp a distribution unit, with subsidiaries spanning the UK, North America and Germany, will be sold to its management, currently based in Reading. — Reuter

Tour firm strengthens grip

THOMAS Cook yesterday announced the purchase of Sunworld, Britain's fifth biggest short-haul tour operator, from Grupo Viajes Iberia for an undisclosed sum believed to be about £38 million. The deal, which includes the Oasis Park Hotel in Minorca, lifts Thomas Cook's share of the overseas holiday market, from 13 per cent to 18 per cent. — Ian King

Homes market 'near normal'

BERKELEY Group, housebuilder and property developer, reported that the UK housing market was returning to normality. Announcing a 15 per cent rise in profits to £43.4 million for 1996, Graham Roper, the chairman, said: "The housing market is out of recession and into a much more normal market." — Tony May

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ATHLETICS: HEAD-TO-HEADS MAKE FOR OLYMPIC DRESS REHEARSAL



Linford Christie v Frankie Fredericks
THE pupil has been upstaging the master this year. Having spent the winter in Australia training with Christie, Fredericks returned to Europe first to break the Briton's world indoor 200 metres record. Then, in Helsinki last week, the Namibian ran 9.87sec for 100 metres, making him equal third-fastest ever with Christie. Christie is the slowest man this season in tonight's 100m final, but Fredericks said: "If I can run 9.87 think what Linford can do."



Michael Johnson v Roger Black
JOHNSON versus the clock is more appropriate. But Black and Iwan Thomas, his young British team-mate, are the best two 400 metre runners outside the United States and could push the American into breaking Butch Reynolds's world record of 43.29sec. Du'aine Ladejo, the third member of Britain's Olympic team, claims he can win in Atlanta, but as Black said: "To talk about beating Michael Johnson is totally unrealistic."



Sally Gunnell v Kim Batten
GUNNELL's words came back to haunt her in Gothenburg last year when she described the field for the world championship 400-metre hurdles final as "naff". So she was amazed as she watched, from the BBC commentary booth, Batten break her world record with a time of 52.61sec. "I've got to get in there in a real pressure race before the Olympics," admitted Gunnell. "I'm feeling good but it could be tough."

Gunnell steps up for a test of mettle

Duncan Mackay in Lausanne on a stellar field hoping to reach fruition for Atlanta

THE most important meeting before Atlanta takes place in the city of the Olympic headquarters here tonight. A budget of \$2 million (£1.3 million) — making it the second richest behind Zurich on the European circuit — will ensure that nearly every event stages a head-to-head that will preview what could happen in the United States this month.

One of the most fascinating clashes pits Sally Gunnell against all three medalists

establishing a new mark of 52.61sec. Gunnell, though, said she was more excited about racing Tonja Buford-Bailey, the world silver medalist, who tops this year's world rankings with the 33.53sec she ran in Paris last Friday.

Fraction missed the early part of the season after twisting her ankle while filming a commercial and has struggled for consistency, though she did beat Buford-Bailey in the US Olympic trials. Gunnell, whose best this year is 54.66sec, maintained: "I always said I thought Tonja was the one to watch this year. After coming second she would have learnt something."

Michael Johnson, the new world-record holder at 200m, said after his performance at the Olympic trials in Atlanta that he felt he could do the same in the 400m, a distance in which he is unbeaten for 53 races. He is up against Britain's Roger Black and Iwan Thomas, but his main opposition is likely to be the clock and Butch Reynolds's eight-year-old record of 43.29sec.

Johnson, who with his chopping stride broke Pietro Mennea's 17-year-old 200m record when he ran 16.66sec, will earn a fortune if he breaks Reynolds's record. The organisers will fork out around \$50,000 (\$20,000 and a one-kilogram gold bar worth

Racing

Haggas rules Shaamit out of the Eclipse

Chris Hawkins

WILLIE HAGGAS has again ruled Shaamit out of Sunday's Coral Eclipse at Sandown despite what he called a "satisfactory" workout when the colt was galloped by Pat Ebdary yesterday.

This decision is hardly a surprise. There is no point in rushing the Derby winner after his recent set-back and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes on July 27 now becomes the logical objective.

His defection means Pentire has been tightened from 5-2 to 9-4 Eclipse favourite with the sponsors, who then bet 100-0 Haggas, 5-1 Valiant, 5-1 Shagadel, 7-1 Blou d'Inde and Charmwood Forest. 10-1 Definite Article and 25-1 Beauchamp King.

Bijou d'Inde and Beauchamp King, the three-year-olds, will supply the comparison for links between the 1996 Classic crop and last year's.

As the Epsom Derby form begins to look moderate, it says the least, some people are pressing the panic buttons. Geoffrey Gibbs, the British Horseracing Board's senior handicapper, is even suggesting that a new date later in the season should be found for the race.

He believes that later maturing horses and more patient training methods mean that the best three-year-olds are no longer being prepared for Epsom and a later date is needed to accommodate them.

This would seem a knee-jerk reaction. Last year's winner Lammtarra did not run prior to the Derby as a three-year-old, but subsequently proved an outstanding colt with victories in the King George and Arc de Triomphe. Edward Gillespie, in charge of Epsom for the last two years, sees Gibbs's suggestion as totally impractical.

"It's like saying it would be nice to have summer in October when the leaves are pretty," said Gillespie. "You couldn't move the Derby without reorganising the whole of the racing schedule. It's locked into the system."

"Sure, the Derby does come early, but that's part of its attraction. The Derby is when the best of a three-year-old's life begins. It's like a chemical reaction — you don't know what you're going to come up with. It could be wonderful, as it was with Shaamit and the Lester Piggot connection, or it could be disappointing."

"I don't think we should write off the racing calendar. We've seen Shaamit run again. He could still be very good. After all, he could only win at Epsom. He couldn't do hand-stands as well."

Catterick with form

2.30 Blue Bomber
2.50 Dumbo
3.20 Stained

2.50 Kitehawk
3.20 Pacific Princess
4.50 Arabian Nights

Drawn No 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

2.30 12540 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12541 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12542 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12543 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12544 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12545 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12546 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12550 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

2.50 12551 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12552 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12553 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12554 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12555 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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3.00 12561 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12562 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12563 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12564 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12565 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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3.30 12571 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12572 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12573 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12574 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12575 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12580 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

4.00 12581 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12582 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12583 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12584 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12585 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12590 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

4.30 12591 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12592 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12593 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12594 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12595 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12596 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12600 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

5.00 12601 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12602 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12603 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12604 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12605 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12609 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12610 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

Folkestone

2.30 Bang Blast
2.50 Sharp Star
3.20 Letterbox Lodge

4.00 Influence Pedlar
4.50 Royal Mirror
5.00 Christmas's Crown

Drawn No 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

2.30 12611 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12612 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12613 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12614 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12615 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12620 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

3.00 12621 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12622 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12623 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12624 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12625 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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3.30 12631 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12632 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12633 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12634 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12635 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12636 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12639 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12640 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

4.00 12641 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12642 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12643 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12644 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12645 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12646 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12647 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12648 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12649 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12650 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

4.30 12651 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12652 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12653 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12654 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12655 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12656 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12657 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12658 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12659 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12660 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

5.00 12661 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12662 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12663 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12664 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12665 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12666 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12667 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12668 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12669 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12670 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

5.30 12671 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12672 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12673 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12674 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12675 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12676 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12678 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12679 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12680 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

Epsom tonight

6.30 Powder Horse
6.50 Begonias
7.20 My Best Valentine (10)

7.50 Chatham Island
8.20 Begonias
8.50 Cheeky Chippy

Drawn No 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

6.30 12681 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12682 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12683 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12684 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12685 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12686 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12687 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
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12689 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12690 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

7.00 12691 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12692 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12693 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12694 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12695 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12696 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12697 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12698 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12699 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12700 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

7.30 12701 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12702 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12703 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12704 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12705 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12706 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12707 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12708 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12709 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12710 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

8.00 12711 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12712 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12713 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12714 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12715 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12716 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12717 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12718 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12719 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12720 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

8.30 12721 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12722 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12723 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12724 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12725 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12726 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12727 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12728 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12729 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12730 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

9.00 12731 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12732 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12733 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12734 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12735 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12736 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12737 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12738 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12739 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12740 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

9.30 12741 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12742 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12743 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12744 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12745 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12746 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12747 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12748 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12749 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12750 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

Yarmouth tonight

6.35 Super Rocky
7.05 COURTNEY (new)
7.20 Passage Cropping

6.55 Rambler
6.55 Mount Karnet
6.55 Hilly Top

Drawn No 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

6.35 12751 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12752 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12753 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12754 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12755 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12756 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12757 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12758 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12759 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12760 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

7.05 12761 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12762 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12763 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12764 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12765 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12766 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12767 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12768 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12769 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12770 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

7.35 12771 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12772 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12773 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12774 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12775 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12776 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12777 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12778 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12779 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12780 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

8.05 12781 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12782 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12783 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12784 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12785 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12786 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12787 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12788 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12789 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12790 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0

8.35 12791 PALMISTE TOUCH (11) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12792 BERRY OF PROSPERITY (7) (9) D Nichols 1-1-1
12793 THE PRINCE OF PEARL (10) (9) J Barry 5-0-7
12794 MISS KERRY SECRET (7) (9) P Evans 5-0-0
12795 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12796 MISS BELLE (10) (10) D Turner 5-0-0
12797 MISS BELLE (

Lausanne stages Olympic rehearsal, page 13
Hoddle woos coaching guru, page 14

Majestic Sampras marches on, page 15
Boardman's team-mate in yellow, page 15

SportsGuardian

WIMBLEDON: CHAMPION ON COURSE FOR REPEAT FINAL WITH SANCHEZ VICARIO

Graf earns date with Japanese giantkiller

Stephen Bierley
on an intriguing clash of styles in prospect for the semi-finals

An overwhelming force of seemingly unstoppable power is driving Steffi Graf towards her seventh Wimbledon title. In her quarter-final against Jana Novotna yesterday it seemed as if a mighty wind blew behind every one of the German's shots.

The No. 6 seed was lifted off her feet and dumped in a crumpled, tangled heap on Centre Court, losing 6-3, 6-2. Three years ago Novotna wept tears of grief and frustration in this arena after losing to Graf in an epic final. On that occasion the Czech let slip a 4-1 lead in the final set and sank her distraught head on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder.

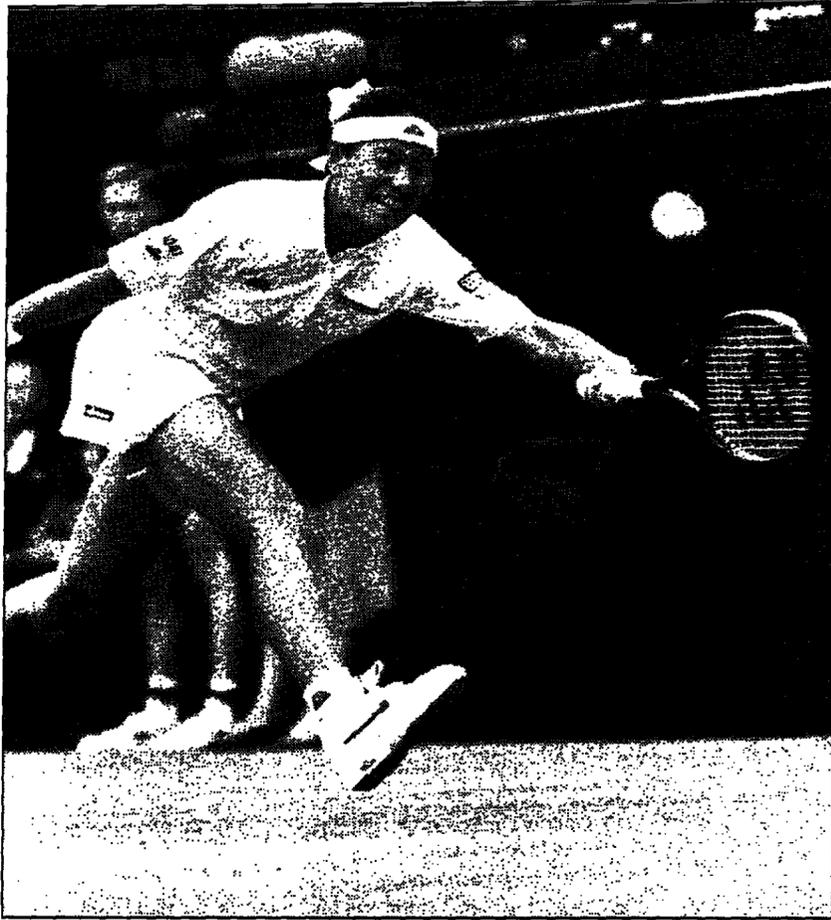
A tight and complex contest had been expected again yesterday but as hard as Novotna tried she could never get into the match, such was Graf's implacable power and determination. Novotna searched with increasing desperation to build a rhythm, to do something that might hurt the reigning Wimbledon champion. But it was never to be.

The Czech has wonderful talent and touch, with a feline ability to stalk the net and poise. Graf knew this well enough and gave her scarcely a chance to move forward. The German's returns were of such quality and depth that Novotna was time and again left stranded on the baseline. In tomorrow's semi-finals Graf will meet Kimiko Date, one of only two women to have beaten her this year, the other being Martina Hingis. The defeat by Date came in Tokyo, during the Fed Cup, and reverberated around the tennis world. Graf lost 12-10 in the third set, having won all her previous six meetings with the Japanese player.

Date lost the first set yesterday to France's Mary Pierce, as she had to the No. 3 seed Conchita Martinez late on Monday. There is a limpet-like determination to Date's play, and as much as Pierce crashed and bashed she could not move the immovable, eventually dashing herself to fragments.

This will be the 25-year-old Date's third Grand Slam semi-final and her first on grass. The only other Japanese to reach this stage here was Goro Satoh in 1933 in the men's singles.

Superficially, Date appears totally innocuous with a service action that would reduce most coaches to quiet despair. Yet her tenacity is second to none and she manages to keep



Tooth rush... Date shows 'limpet-like determination' to reach her third Grand Slam semi-final PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JENKINS

her flat ground strokes especially low. The more power her opponent generates the better Date likes it; Pierce's weight of shot can be remarkable but there is little or no flexibility

to her game. By comparison, her concentration span would make a leech of a butterfly. For the first set her game held together; in this form it was possible to believe she really did win the Australian

Open last year. Thereafter it seemed a tale somebody had made up in Melbourne and fed to a gullible world. Date, who won eventually 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 is reminiscent of Inspector Clouseau's servant Kato, who springs from unlikely hiding places when least expected. It was possible to imagine Pierce shouting "not now, Date" as the Japanese, barely visible over the net, jumped on a service or return and smacked it back with interest.

"She doesn't make many mistakes but does nothing special," said Pierce, which many would feel is an apt description of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Yet it appears increasingly likely the Spaniard will play Graf in the final, a repeat of last year, when the German won an absorbing match 4-6, 6-1, 7-5. Judith Wiesner, playing her first Grand Slam quarter-final, made a wonderful start,

taking a 4-2 lead against Sanchez Vicario in the first set with an array of deep ground shots and, on occasions, sharp volleys. As ever Sanchez Vicario, the No. 4 seed, scrambled and chased with increasing energy and the drip, drip, drip of pressure began to erode the Austrian's confidence. She was to lose the next 10 games, Sanchez Vicario winning 6-1, 6-0.

In the semi-finals she will meet Meredith McGrath, who, like Wiesner, was playing in her first Grand Slam quarter-final. Mary Joe Fernandez, the No. 9 seed, ricked her back in practice during the morning and McGrath, who won the Edgbaston tournament this year, ran out a comfortable 6-3, 6-1 winner. McGrath has met Sanchez Vicario only twice before, losing both times. Today, of course, all eyes will be on Tim Henman.

Sport for all but cash for the clever few



Vincent Hanna

I HAD supper with Quentin last night. He is a mandarin in Whitehall who pulls the strings of the mighty. I had asked for help with the Old Ozymandians cricket club, which is in bad shape. He said he could.

Quentin has been busy lately sorting out Northern Ireland and briefing Tony Blair's team. "How," I asked, "do you cope with the constant threat of violence?"

"One gets used to it," he said, "and Northern Ireland wasn't too bad either." Old Ozymandians is typical of thousands of tiny sports clubs around the country in finding it hard to make ends meet. "What do you want the money for?" asked Quentin. "We'd like a shed for the roller, a new urinal and an extension to the pavilion to build a bar."

"What's the pavilion like now?" he asked. "Like a urinal with a roller in it," I said. "I have good news and bad news," said Quentin. "You can apply for lottery money that's the good news. The bad news is that you are unlikely to get any, and even if you did it would cost you money."

He explained that an extension to our pavilion would increase the rateable value of our premises and therefore our rates. "That's bad," I said. "It might be good," said Quentin. "Under Section 47 of the 1988 Act, local authorities may grant relief up to 100 per cent to non-profit-making bodies. Are your facilities made available to all sections of the community?"

"The club excludes women, Jews and hairdressers." "Why hairdressers?" asked Quentin. "That was a joke," I said; funny how it always works with certain Establishment types. "So we're all right then?"

"Not necessarily," he said. "It's a discretionary power. The local council can recover 75 per cent of the money from the Government. But some can't or won't fork up for elitist clubs, especially in the urban areas. It's all in a CCPR survey." He showed me Councils in Tyne and Wear help 73 clubs, the West Midlands 139. But Lincolnshire gave exemption to 338, and

even Norfolk managed 188. "Does this mean that affluent areas tend to help more?"

"Of course," said Quentin. "Did not John Major himself say," I asked, "that local sports clubs have vital roles to play in the sporting development of young people?"

"Yes he did, and so they have." "Then why can't they have some public money?" I asked. Quentin looked puzzled. "I'm sorry, I don't follow that."

Then he perked up: "I'll tell you what, why not apply for charitable status? You get 80 per cent relief from rates, and massive tax savings too."

NOW North Tawton Rugby Club are taking the Charity Commissioners to court for turning down just such an application.

The case is backed by the RFU and might stand a chance, given the state of a law that can make Oxford Skating Rink a charity but turns down Birchfield Harriers: which classifies multi-sports clubs as charitable but not a single sport club.

"That's good," I said. "No, that's bad," said Quentin. "If North Tawton wins it will cost the Treasury millions, and we simply cannot permit that sort of thing." I began to feel that combination of impotent rage and inadequacy that Quentin instills in ministers. "You are supposed to know all the smart answers," I whinged. "You said you could help."

"I do and I can," he purred. "I have two suggestions. Firstly, I take it that the Old Ozymandians club is in Scotland?"

"You know perfectly well it is in Kent." He waved airily. "A technical detail. For the purposes of this idea, it is in Scotland."

He leaned forward: "The Local Government (etc) (Scotland) Act 1994, takes hunting estates off the valuation roll. Invite a few friends to the club to shoot pheasants, and say you're in Perthshire."

"I was firm," said Quentin. "I am opposed to all blood sports except politics. Have you anything else?" "Certainly," he beamed. "I suggest you buy half-a-dozen sheep, graze them on the pitch, and have the pavilion re-classified as an agricultural hereditament within the meaning of Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. You'd pay no rates." "Will it work?" I asked. "It did for me," he said. "The Old Ozymandians are forever in your debt," I said. "Look on my works and despair," said Quentin.

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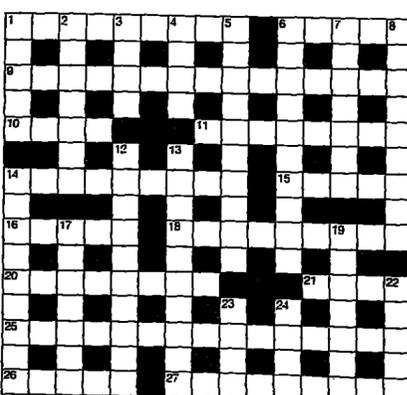
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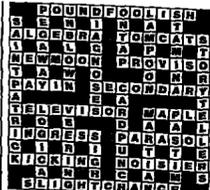
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Branson's empire also takes in hotels, holidays, airships, balloons, a model agency and a stake in the Channel Tunnel railway, Eurostar. It spreads like an exploding star, but like astrophysics, everything isn't all as it seems. Inside Story G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,695 Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 1 Line up for sport I have with a curl that's warton (9)
 - 6 Appearance to turn into obligation (5)
 - 9 Draw Ireland and go round in 7 for a scorcher with lots of spectators (8,7)
 - 10, 21 Dishonesty followed by the honest is ready to be read (4,4)
 - 11 It's outside the pale to quench a thirst for ballet (4,4)
 - 14 Fruit drink takes in one quiet man in the suburbs, perhaps (9)
 - 15 Area for propaganda (5)
 - 16 Some fireworks in the proper month (5)
 - 18 Prisoner of the French in support of ancient court (9)
 - 20 Little boy with never an ancient court (8)
- Down**
- 1 Rich on a pound? No chance! (5)
 - 2 River comes in close after Christmas (3,4)
 - 3 A writer to draw a country (8)
 - 5 A lawyer in a thousand arranged for workers on line (10)
 - 6 Clarity is customary in a clue (10)
 - 7 Pub lawyers first with 3 4 (7)
 - 8 Sports car, perhaps, or we state otherwise (9)
- 21 See 10**
- 25 Final offer - umbrella problem on British morning? (4,2,2,5,2)
 - 26 Capped person to demand payment from church (5)
 - 27 Church to negate the left-wing soul of France (5,4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,695

- 12 A pupil (one with two heads) broke the ice (10)
- 13 Nominal heart of 12, ground to 18 part 2 (10)
- 14 Sort of fixer, a breeding-ground for journalists? (5-4)
- 17 Little boy holding stretcher is a plant (7)
- 19 Bath time? Time flies (7)
- 22 In solution it remains salt-petre (5)
- 23, 24 The uninteresting people of Derby? (4,4)

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